DEER STALKING IN THE HIGHLANDS.

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THE

RECREATION.

THE SIXTH OF THE SERIES.

DARING EXPLOIT OF BANDITTI.

Page 240.

JOHN MENZIES, EDINBURGH.
Wm S. ORR & Co LONDON.
1846.

THE RECREATION.

A GIFT-BOOK FOR YOUNG READERS.

THE SIXTH OF THE SERIES.

JOHN MENZIES, EDINBURGH;
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THE RECREATION.

INCIDENTS OF A VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD.

From the "Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition" we glean some passages which will both interest and instruct the reader. We cannot pretend to give even a brief outline of the proceedings, as they extend over a period of nearly five years—from 1838 to 1842—and the details occupy five large volumes. We must content ourselves with a few random extracts. The squadron, consisting of six vessels, sailed on the 18th of August 1838. It was the aim of Lieutenant Wilkes to inform himself of the existence, and to mark the position, of rocks, shoals, and islands in the Southern and Pacific Oceans. He also ventured as far as prudence would allow in various longitudes, towards the South Pole, surveying the almost unknown Polynesian groups. The Columbian river, and the territory of the United States on the seabord of the north coast of America, were also visited. After traversing some of the adjacent seas, including that of Japan, he returned by way of China, Singapore, and the Cape of Good Hope. Scientific observations were an especial object, and a corps of professors, amounting to nine, accompanied the expedition. First, then, for a description of the Island of St Jago.

THE ISLAND OF ST JAGO.

This island presents a very different appearance from Madeira, particularly the south-eastern portion of it, though its formation is known to be similar. There are many high peaks and mountains in its centre, which afford a fine background for the barren and uninteresting coast scenery. The time of our arrival was just after the rainy season, the island consequently presented a more verdant appearance than it does at other seasons of the year. Our Consul, F.

Gardiner, Esq., came on board and made us welcome to all the island afforded. An officer was despatched to call upon his excellency the governor, to report our arrival, who proved to be a black man. Knowing that the regulations required permission for vessels to depart, the request was made during the interview, which he readily granted at any hour we chose. The town of Porto Praya, is prettily situated on an elevated piece of table land, and looked well from the anchorage. The bay is an open one, but is not exposed to the prevailing winds. There is generally a swell setting in, which makes the landing unpleasant and difficult. The only landing-place is a small rock, some distance from the town, and under a high bank, on which there is, or rather was, a fortification, for it is now entirely gone to decay. It commands the bay, and is situated about two hundred feet above the sea. The horizontal stratification of the red and yellow-coloured sandstone shows most conspicuously in this cliff, and forms one of the most remarkable objects on this part of the island. It is of tertiary formation, and contains many fossils. I regretted extremely that my time did not permit me to make a longer stay, as we left the island under the impression that there is much here to be found that is new in the various departments of natural history. Between this bluff and the town is an extensive valley, in which are many date-palms, cocoa-nuts, and a species of aloe. On landing a stranger is immediately surrounded by numbers of the inhabitants, with fruit, vegetables, chickens, turkeys, and monkeys, all pressing him with bargains, and willing to take anything for the

purpose of obliging their customers. Many of them continue to follow until they meet with some new customer. The soil, rocks, and everything around on the surface, show unequivocal marks of volcanic origin. The rock above the tertiary formation is a thick bed of cellular lava, with fragments of the same strewn in every direction over it. A thin and poor soil gives but little sustenance to a light herbage. Goats and asses are found in great numbers grazing upon it. The length of our visit did not permit us to make much examination, yet the character of the vegetation was unequivocally African. The walk from the landing to the town is exceedingly fatiguing, and the road deep with sand. The first view of the town on entering it is anything but striking, and all the ideas formed in its favour are soon dispelled. The houses are white-washed, and in general appearance resemble those inhabited by the lower orders in Madeira, but they are much inferior even to them. The north-east part of the town is composed of rough stone houses, covered with palm leaves. The streets are wide, and in the centre is a large public square, the middle of which is occupied by a small wooden monument said to be emblematical of royalty! A chapel, jail, and barracks constitute the principal public buildings. The fort, which flanks the town, is almost entirely in decay. This is the case with almost everything we saw here: the place is indeed, little better than an African town. The houses are of stone, one story high, partly thatched, and others tiled. Their interior presents only a few articles of absolute necessity. Of comfort and cleanliness, in

our sense of the words, they have no idea. The houses and streets are filthy in the extreme, and in both of them, pigs, fowls, and monkeys appear to claim, and really possess, equal rights with the occupants and owner. The population is made up of an intermixture of descendants from the Portuguese, natives, and negroes from the adjacent coast. The Negro race seems to predominate, woolly hair, flat noses, and thick lips being most frequently met with. The number of inhabitants in St Jago is about thirty thousand. Porto Praya contains two thousand three hundred, of which number one hundred are native Portuguese. The language spoken is a jargon formed by a mixture of the Portuguese and Negro dialects. Most of the blacks speak their native tongue. Mr Hale, our philologist, obtained here a vocabulary of the Mandingo language, and found it to agree with that given by Mungo Park.

The officers of this garrison were, like the governor, all black. The latter made a brilliant appearance, dressed in a military frock coat, red sash, two large silver epaulettes, and a military cross on his breast. He was quite good-looking, although extremely corpulent, and speaks both French and Spanish well. He was very civil and attentive. Fruit, bread, cheese, and wines were handed about. Some of the wine was made on the island of Fogo, and resembled the light Italian wines. The cheese also was made here from goats' milk, and resembled the Spanish cheese. After doing ample justice to his excellency's good fare, we proceeded to view the lions of the place. The first and greatest of these is the fountain, or common watering place of the town,

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above half a mile distant by the path, in a valley to the west of the town, and almost immediately under it. The fountain is surrounded by a variety of tropical trees,—consisting of dates, cocoa-nuts, bananas, papayas, sugar-cane, and tamarinds, with grapes, oranges, limes, &c. &c., and when brought into comparison with the surrounding lands, may be termed an enchanting spot; but what adds peculiarly to its effect on a stranger, is the novelty of the objects that are brought together. Over the spring is a thatched roof, and round about it a group of the most remarkable objects in human shape that can well be conceived. On one side blind beggars, dirty soldiers, and naked children; on another, lepers, boys with monkeys, others with fowls, half-dressed women, asses not bigger than sheep, and hogs of a mammoth breed; to say nothing of those with cutaneous disorders, &c. &c., that were undergoing ablution. All conspired to form a scene peculiar, I should think, to this semi-African population. Here sailors watering and washing, chatting, talking, and laughing; there a group of "*far niente*" natives of all sizes, shapes, and colours, half clothed, with turbanded heads and handkerchiefs of many and gay colours, tied on after a different fashion from what we had been accustomed to, the shawls being reversed, their ends hanging down behind instead of before, completely covering the breast, and one-fourth of the face. What portion of this group had honoured the place in consequence of our visit, it would be difficult to conjecture; all were eager however, to derive some benefit from the meeting, particularly the beggars, who are equally pertinacious with those

found elsewhere, and are certainly great objects of commiseration. This well barely supplies the wants of the inhabitants and shipping, and they are now about building a reservoir. The whole of the stone for it was prepared in Portugal, and made ready for putting up. It is to be made of marble. The water for its supply is brought two miles in iron pipes. It is said that it will cost 130,000 dollars, and is the only improvement that has been undertaken by government for many a year. A market is held daily in the morning when any vessels are in port. The square in which it is held is quite a large one, with a cross in its centre. The market is not of much extent, but a great variety of tropical fruits, of the kinds before enumerated, are exposed for sale in small quantities, as well as vegetables. These consist of cabbage-leaves, beans, pumpkins, squashes, corn, potatoes, yams, mandioca, &c. All these were spread out on the large leaves of the cocoa-nut tree. No kind of meat was for sale. The only articles of this description were chickens four or five days old, tied up in bunches, and some eggs. In order to obtain beef, it is necessary to buy the cattle at the cattle yard, where, on previous notice being given, you may choose those that suit for slaughter. They are in general of small size, and dark-coloured. Those we saw were from the interior of the island, where they are said to thrive well. The morning drill of the recruits which was witnessed, was amusing. They were cleanly dressed, but the rattan was freely used by the sergeant, and what seemed characteristic or in keeping with appearances round, the sergeant during the drill ordered one of his men from the

ranks, to bring him some fire to light his cigar! No trades were observed, but one small carpenter's shop. A few shops were suppplied with cotton, hardware, &c. There were likewise a number of little wine shops, where they also sold fruit, which they usually have in great plenty, but all their crops depend much upon the rains, and the inhabitants have also become indifferent or careless about raising more than for their own supply, from the heavy exactions of government made upon everything that is cultivated. The demand for shipping has of late years very much decreased. The improvement in the supplies and comforts on board of vessels on long voy ages, now make it unnecessary to touch in port, as was formerly deemed unavoidable.

THE PETCHERAI INDIANS.

They were entirely naked, with the exception of a small piece of seal-skin, only sufficient to cover one shoulder, and which is generally worn on the side from which the wind blows, affording them some little shelter against its piercing influence. They were not more than five feet high, of a light copper colour, which is much concealed by smut and dirt, particularly on their faces, which they mark vertically with charcoal. They have short faces, narrow foreheads, and high cheek-bones. Their eyes are small and unusually black, the upper eyelids in the inner corner are overlapping the under one, and bear a strong resemblance to those of the Chinese. Their nose is broad and flat, with wide spread nostrils, mouth large, teeth white, large, and regular. The

hair is long, lank, and black, hanging over the face, and is covered with white ashes, which gives them a hideous appearance. The whole face is compressed. Their bodies are remarkable from the great developement of the chest, shoulders, and vertebral column; their arms are long, and out of proportion; their legs small and ill made. There is in fact little difference between the size of the ankle and leg; and when standing, the skin at the knee hangs in a large loose fold. In some the muscles of the leg appear almost wanting, and possess very little strength. This want of developement in the muscles of the legs is owing to their constant sitting posture, both in their huts and canoes. Their skin is sensibly colder than ours. It is impossible to fancy anything in human nature more filthy. They are an ill-shapen and ugly race. They have little or no idea of the relative value of articles, even of those that one would suppose were of the utmost use to them, such as iron and glass-ware. A glass bottle broken into pieces is valued as much as a knife. Red flannel, torn into stripes, pleases them more than in the piece; they wound it around their heads, as a kind of turban, and it was amusing to see their satisfaction at this small acquisition. The children were quite small, and nestled in the bottom of the canoe on some dry grass. The woman and eldest boy paddled the canoe, the man being employed to bail out the water and attend to the fire, which is always carried in the bottom of the canoe, on a few stones and ashes, which the water surrounds. Their canoes are constructed of bark, are very frail, and sewed with shreds of whalebone, sealskin, and twigs. They are sharp at both ends,

and are kept in shape as well as strengthened by a number of stretchers lashed to the gunwale. These Indians seldom venture outside the kelp, by the aid of which they pull themselves along; and their paddles are so small as to be of little use in propelling their canoes, unless it is calm. Some of the officers thought they recognized a party on the Hermit Islands that had been on board ship at Orange Harbour. If this was the case, they must have ventured across the Bay of Nassau, a distance of some ten or twelve miles. This, if correct, would go to prove that there is more intercourse among them than their frail barks would lead one to expect. Their huts are generally found built close to to the shore, at the head of some small bay, in a secluded spot, and sheltered from the prevailing winds. They are built of boughs or small trees, stuck in the earth, and brought together at the top, where they are firmly bound by bark, sedge, and twigs. Smaller branches are then interlaced, forming a tolerably compact wicker-work, and on this, grass, turf, and bark are laid, making the hut quite warm, and impervious to the wind and snow, though not quite so to the rain. The usual dimensions of these huts are seven or eight feet in diameter, and about four or five feet in height. They have an oval hole to creep in at. The fire is built in a small excavation in the middle of the hut. The floor is of clay, which has the appearance of having been well kneaded. The usual accompaniment of a hut is a conical pile of shells opposite the door, nearly as large as the hut itself. Their occupancy of a hut seems to be limited to the supply of shell-fish, consisting of mussels and limpets in the neighbourhood.

These natives are never seen but in their huts or canoes.

The impediments to their communication by land are great, growing out of the mountainous and rocky character of the country, intersected with inlets deep and impassable, and in most places bounded by abrupt precipices, together with a soil which may be termed a quagmire, on which it is difficult to walk. This prevails on the hills as well as in the plains and valleys. The impenetrable nature of the forest, with the dense undergrowth of thorny bushes, renders it impossible for them to overcome or contend with these difficulties. They appear to live in families, and not in tribes, and do not seem to acknowledge any chief. On the 11th of March three bark canoes arrived, containing four men, four women, and a girl about sixteen years old, four little boys and four infants, one of the latter about a week old, and quite naked. The thermometer was at 46° Fahrenheit. They had rude weapons, viz., slings to throw stones, three rude spears, pointed at the end with bone, and notched on one side with barbed teeth. With this they catch their fish, which are in great quantities among the kelp. Two of the natives were induced to come on board, after they had been alongside for upwards of an hour, and received many presents, for which they gave their spears, a dog, and some of their rude native trinkets. They did not show or express surprise at any thing on board, except when seeing one of the carpenters engaged in boring a hole with a screw-auger through a plank, which would have been a long task for them. They were very talkative, smiling when

spoken to, and often bursting into loud laughter, but instantly settling into their natural serious and sober cast. They were found to be great mimics, both in gesture and sound, and would repeat any word of our language, with great correctness of pronunciation. Their imitations of sound were truly astonishing. One of them ascended and descended the octave perfectly, following the sounds of the violin correctly. It was then found he could sound the common chords, and follow through the semitone scale, with scarcely an error. Their mimicry became annoying, and precluded our getting at any of their words or ideas. It not only extended to words or sounds, but actions also, and was at times truly ridiculous. The usual manner of interrogating for names was quite unsuccessful. On pointing to the nose, for instance, they did the same. Anything they saw done they would mimic, and with an extraordinary degree of accuracy. On these canoes approaching the ship, the principal one of the family, or chief, standing up in his canoe, made a harangue. He spoke in G natural, and did not vary his voice more than a semitone. The pitch of the voice of the female is an octave higher. Although they have been heard to shout quite loud, yet they cannot endure a noise. When the drum beat, or a gun was fired, they invariably stopped their ears. They always speak to each other in a whisper. Their cautious manner and movements prove them to be a timid race. The men are exceedingly jealous of strangers, and will not allow any one, if they can help it, to enter their huts.

The men are employed in building the huts, obtain-

ing food, and providing for their other wants. The women were generally seen paddling their canoes. When this party of natives left the ship and reached the shore, the women remained in their canoes, and the men began building their temporary huts; the little children were seen capering quite naked on the beach, although the thermometer was at 40°. On the hut being finished, which occupied about an hour, the women went on shore to take possession of it. They all seemed quite happy and contented. Before they left the ship, the greater part of them were dressed in old clothes, that had been given to them by the officers and men, who all showed themselves extremly anxious 'to make them comfortable.' This gave rise to much merriment, as Jack was not disposed to allow any difficulties to interfere in the fitting. If the jackets proved too tight across the shoulders, which they invariably were, a slit down the back effectually remedied the defect. If a pair of trowsers was found too small around the waist, the knife was again resorted to, and in some cases a fit was made by severing the legs. The most difficult fit, and the one which afforded the most merriment, was that of a woman to whom an old coat was given. This she concluded belonged to her nether limbs, and no signs, hints, nor shouts could correct her mistake. Her feet were thrust through the sleeves, and after hard squeezing she succeeded in drawing them on. With the skirts brought up in front, she took her seat in the canoe with great satisfaction, amid a roar of laughter from all who saw her. Towards evening Messrs Waldron and Drayton visited their huts. Before they reached the

shore, the natives were seen making a fire on the beach, for their reception, evidently to avoid their entering their huts. On landing, one of the men seemed anxious to talk with them. He pointed to the ship, and tried to express many things by gestures; then pointed to the south-east, and then again to the ship, after which clasping his hands, as in our mode of prayer, he said, 'Eloah, Eloah,' as though he thought we had come from God. After a little time, they gained admittance to the hut. The men creeping in first, squatted themselves directly in front of the women, all holding out the small piece of sealskin to allow the heat to reach their bodies. The women squatted three deep behind the men, the oldest in front, nestling the infants. After being in the hut, Mr Drayton endeavoured to call the attention of the man who had made signs to him before entering, to know whether they had any idea of a Supreme Being. The same man then put his hands together, repeating as before, 'Eloah, Eloah.' From his manner, it was inferred that they had some idea of a God or a Supreme Being. Their mode of expressing friendship is by jumping up and down. They made Messrs Waldron and Drayton jump with them on the beach, before entering the hut, took hold of their arms, facing them, and jumping two or three inches from the ground, making them keep time to the following song:—

Ha ma la ha ma la ha ma la ha ma la.
O la la la la la la la la la.

All our endeavours to find out how they ignited their fire prove unavailing. It must be exceedingly difficult for them to accomplish, judging from the care they

take of it, always carrying it with them in their canoes, and the danger they thus run of injuring themselves by it. Their food consists of limpets, mussels, and other shell-fish. Quantities of fish, and some seals, are now and then taken among the kelp, and with berries of various kinds, and wild celery, they do not want. They seldom cook their food much. Shell-fish are detached from the shell by heat, and the fish are partly roasted in their skins, without being cleaned. When on board, one of them was induced to sit at the dinner-table; after a few lessons, he handled his knife and fork with much dexterity. He refused both spirits and wine, but was very fond of sweetened water. Salt provisions were not at all to his liking, but rice and plum-pudding were agreeable to his taste, and he literally crammed them into his mouth. After his appetite had been satisfied, he was in great good humour, singing his 'Hey meh leh,' dancing and laughing. His mimicry prevented any satisfactory inquiries being made of him relative to a vocabulary. Some of the officers painted the faces of these natives black, white and red: this delighted them very much, and it was quite amusing to see the grimaces made by them before a looking-glass. One of these natives remained on board for upwards of a week, and being washed and combed, he became two or three shades lighter in colour. Clothes were put on him. He was about twenty-three years of age; and was unwell the whole time he was on board, from eating such quantities of rice, &c. His astonishment was very great on attending divine service. The moment the chaplain began to read from the book, his eyes were

riveted upon him, where they remained as long as he continued to read. At the end of the week he became dissatisfied, and was set on shore, and soon appeared naked again. It was observed, on presents being made, that those who did not receive any began a sort of whining cry, putting on the most doleful-looking countenances imaginable. They are much addicted to theft, if any opportunity offers. The night before they left the bay, they stole and cut up one of the wind-sails, which had been scrubbed and hung up on shore to dry. Although we had no absolute proof of it, we are inclined to the belief that they bury their dead in caves.

VISIT TO A MINE.

THE road over the cuesta was narrow, steep, and broken. It descended into a plain, which was found well cultivated and watered by a branch of the Acoucagua.

The ridges on the northern side of the valley now became more lofty and precipitous, exhibiting the columnar structure more distinctly. The trap dikes were in some places four feet wide; and in one place, where the rock had been cut to form the road, fourteen dikes were counted within three hundred feet. On their way up the valley, the peons' horse gave out, and they were obliged to stop and hire another at a farmer's house, who was called Evangelista Celidona. This rancho, twenty feet by ten, was rather better than others that were met with, but at the same time, bore a strong resemblance to them. It was constructed of large ardobes, or rather blocks

of clay, and furnished in the inside nearly with the same material. It consisted of but one apartment, the floor of which was clay. It had a thatched roof which was open in several places. There was no window, the door and the holes in the roof supplied all the light. The furniture, if such it could be called, consisted of a rude bedstead, an apology for a table at one end. The other was divided into three bins, one to contain corn, another beans, and the third potatoes, and with saddles and various kinds of horse gear, and a bag or two of wheat. On one side was a clay seat three feet broad by six long, and the height of an ordinary seat, whilst from the rafters hung in nets a good supply of bread, cheese, and numerous strings of onions, garlic, and red Chili pepper. There were but two chairs and a bench, all the cooking is done in a small detached building; and a small clay oven in the yard is an accompaniment of every rancho. Bread and an abundance of grapes, of which they could not eat more than a third, were supplied them for a "media." The second cuesta was shortly afterwards mounted, of about 500 feet elevation, and on the top they were gratified by witnessing the mode in which the Chilians capture wild horses. A party of four or five horsemen, with about twenty dogs, were seen formed in an extended crescent, driving the wild horses towards the river with shouts. All were armed with the lasso, which was swinging over their heads, to be readiness to entrap the first that attempted to break through the gradually contracting segment; the dogs serving with the riders to hem the horses in. They continued to advance, when suddenly a horse with furious speed broke the line, passing near one of

the horsemen, and for a moment it was thought it had escaped; the next, he was jerked round with a force that seemed sufficient to have broke his neck, the horseman having, the moment the lasso was thrown, turned round and braced himself for the shock. The captured horse now began to rear and plunge furiously, to effect his escape; after becoming somewhat worn out, he was suffered to run, and again suddenly checked; this was repeated several times, when another plan was adopted. The dogs were set on him, and off he went at full run in the direction of another horseman, who threw his lasso to entangle his legs and precipitate him to the ground. The dogs again roused him, when he again started, and was in like manner brought to a stand; after several trials, he became completely exhausted and subdued, when he stood perfectly still, and allowed his captors to lay hands upon him. The shouts of the men, the barking of the dogs, and the scampering of the horses, made the whole scene quite exciting.

The mines by the light of the numerous candles, exhibited all the shades of green, blue, yellow, purple, bronze, &c., having a metallic and lustrous appearance. The confined air, with the heat of so many candles, made it quite oppressive; and persons who have not often visited mines, are subject to faintness and vertigo from this cause. Mr Alderson and Mr Dana were both affected by it. It was the first time the former had ever penetrated so far, Mr Newman and himself being governed by the report of the mayoral, and the ore brought up in their operations. The miners were not a little astonished at our gentlemen loading themselves, besides the specimens of ores,

with the piedra bruta, which they considered of no value. The manner of labour in the mines is in as rude a state as it was found in the agricultural branches of industry. A clumsy pick-axe, a short crowbar, a stone-cutter's chisel, and an enormous oblong iron hammer, of twenty-five pounds weight, were the only tools. The hammer is used only when the ore is too high to be reached with the pick or crowbar. The miners, from the constant exercise of their arms and chest, have them well developed, and appear brawny figures. When the ore is too tough to be removed by the ordinary methods, they blast it off in small fragments, not daring to use large blasts, lest the rock should cave in upon them. Only a few weeks previous to their visit, the mayoral, while at the farthest end of the gallery, was alarmed by the rattling down of some stones, and before he could retreat, the walls caved in for several yards outside of where he was, leaving but a small space. It required eighteen hours of unceasing effort by nearly a hundred men to extricate him from his perilous situation. The ore is brought to the mouth of the mine on the backs of men, in sacks made of raw hide, and holding about one hundred pounds. Whenever a sufficient quantity to load a drove of mules is extracted, it is thrown down the mountain slide, and then carried to the furnace at Jacquel. Only seventeen miners were employed; previous to this the number employed was one hundred. Whenever a richer vein was struck a larger number were employed, who could always be easily obtained by foreigners, the natives preferring to work for them, as they say whatever the profits or losses may be,

they are sure of being regularly paid. The wages are small—from three to four dollars per month, in addition to their food. They are allowed to draw a third of their pay on the last Saturday of every month, and full settlement is made twice a year. They are supplied with clothing and other necessaries, out of which the agent makes a per-centage, and which is charged against their wages. There is one admirable regulation of the Chilian government, that of not permitting liquors to be brought within a league of any mine, under a severe penalty, which is strictly enforced. The cost of the maintenance of each workman is not great; they are allowed as rations for breakfast four handfuls of dried figs, and the same of walnuts; value about three cents. For dinner they have bread, and fresh beef or pork. Small stores, as sugar and tea, they find themselves. One of the greatest inconveniences, and which is attended with some expense, is the supply of the miners with water, which has to be brought up the mountains. The miners' huts are the last dwellings on the Chilian side of the Andes.

ST JOHN'S DAY IN PERU.

The manner in which St John's day is kept in Peru is amusingly described.

On St John's day, (24th of June,) the patron saint of Lima, a great festival among the lower classes—the cholos, native, zambos, and blacks—takes place. It is held in the valley of Amancaes, about three miles north of the city. Previous to the day, a number of tents and booths are erected in the

valley, which is about half a mile long, and one-third of a mile wide. These are decked out with flags and banners. There are tents for refreshments, strong drinks, dancing, gambling, &c., in every direction. On the road leading to this scene are erected shrines of the saint, where all who pass are expected to pay their contributions. On this day every horse and vehicle in Lima is engaged, and at exorbitant rates. The whole road leading to the valley is crowded from an early hour in the morning. The higher classes generally frequent it early and return soon, while those of the middle and lower classes continue to keep it up until a late hour. Every one is decked with the flowers of the Pancratium Amancaes, which grows in great abundance in the place where the festival is held; and the decoration extends even to the horses and mules, as well as to the booths and vehicles. As the day advances, the crowd increases. No 4th of July in our own country could equal the uproarious drunkenness that ensues. Dancing is the favourite amusement. The dance in which they most delight is a national one, called the samacueca, and no words can give an idea of its vulgarity and obscenity. I think it a happy circumstance that it is confined to this country. One Amancaes day would upturn a whole year of morals. As intoxication ensues it goes to extreme lengths. Italia, or rather pisco, is pledged to every one, and many are seen with bottle and glass passing about, and pledging happiness and prosperity, in the hope of getting a small reward. The music to which they dance consists of a small guitar, accompanied with the voice, and beating of time; the time is quite mono-

tonous, somewhat resembling the Spanish seguidilla. The crowd is great, consisting of cholos, zambos, negroes and whites, variously dressed and jumbled together; some singing, some begging, fighting, swearing, laughing; no order, all confusion. This is the centre of the fray. On the outskirts are seen groups of the better classes, sitting down to their pic-nics. The acting President and Governor of Lima, Lafuente and staff, honoured the place with their presence, to please the people. He did not, however, appear to receive any honours, nor was his arrival greeted with marks of approbation or enthusiasm. Towards evening, when the inebriated mass is returning, the great sport of the day occurs. The cholo women, who ride astride, are remarkably good horsewomen, and extremely expert in managing their horses. Their dress is peculiar: a large broad-brimmed hat, with flowing ribands of gay colours, short spencer or jacket of silk, a gaudy calico or painted muslin skirt, silk stockings, blue, pink, or white satin shoes, and over the whole is sometimes worn a white poncho. Large wooden stirrups, ornamented with silver, numerous pillions, a saddle-cloth, and richly ornamented bridle, all decked with amancaes, form the caparison of the steeds. Nothing can exceed the confusion of the return of this great throng, moving over a dusty road, shouting and racing. The cholo women are always on the lead, and actively engaged in taking care of their drunken partners, who are frequently seen mounted behind them, with their faces flushed from the effects of pisco, forming an odd contrast to the beautiful yellow flowers that adorn their hats. The great feat of the

women who ride single, is to unhorse their companions, which they frequently succeed in doing, to the great amusement and sport of the pedestrians, and the discomfiture of their male associates. They are seen while at full gallop to stop suddenly, whirl round two or three times, and go off again at full speed, covering themselves and the bystanders with dust. Just before reaching the city, the road is lined with vehicles, not unlike our cabs, in which are seated ladies in full costume. The Alameda, as well as the streets leading into it, is crowded on this occasion with all the fashion of the city. Though the crowd would lead to the belief that every body was abroad, yet the doors and windows are filled with heads, more or less decorated with amancaes. This is a festival nowhere surpassed in drunkenness and uproar.

THE RUINS OF PACHACAMAC.

PACHACAMAC is one of the most interesting spots on this part of the coast, although it is said it will not compare with many others in various parts of the country, especially at Cusco. They left Callao on the afternoon of the 28th of June, and were at anchor about midnight abreast of the place. At daylight the surf was found so heavy as to render it dangerous to land in the whale-boat. By the perseverance of the officers, a raft was formed of the India-rubber mattrasses and oars; two balsas were also provided. Lieutenant Underwood made the first attempt, and paddled himself into the rollers, the first one of which threw him and the balsas end over end. Shortly after, the raft was seen bottom

up, the oar broken, and the fragments sticking up in various directions; but he was missing. He soon, however, made his appearance at some distance, and just as he reached the raft, a second sea broke over him, and he again disappeared, apparently much exhausted. When the third roller broke over him, he was considered for a few moments as lost; and it was no small relief to see him crawling from the water up on the beach, a short time afterwards. The raft was now pulled back to the tender by the line. In consequence of the ill success of this experiment, it was determined to make a trial in the whale-boat, which succeeded without accident. Dr Pickering and Lieutenant Underwood now proceeded to the temple. At the base of the hills, they found a few cabins of Indians, who stated that they had not chosen the proper place for landing. The Temple of Pachacamac, or Castle, as it is called by the Indians, is on the summit of a hill, with three terraces; the view of it from the north is somewhat like that of the Pyramid of Cholula, given by Humboldt, except that the flanks were perpendicular. The whole height of the hill is two hundred and fifty feet, that of the mason-work eighty; the form is rectangular, the base being five hundred by four hundred feet. At the south-eastern extremity, the three distinct terraces are not so perceptible, and the declivity is more gentle. The walls, where great strength was required to support the earth, were built of unhewn square blocks of rock; these were cased with sun-dried bricks (adobes), which were covered with a coating of clay or plaster, and stained or painted of a reddish colour. A range of square brick pilasters

projected from the uppermost wall, facing the sea, evidently belonging originally to the interior of a large apartment. These pilasters gave it the aspect of an Egyptian structure. In no other Peruvian antiquities have pilasters been seen by us. On one of the northern terraces were also remains of apartments; here the brick appeared more friable, owing to a greater proportion of sand; where they retained their shape, their dimensions were nine inches in width by six inches deep, varying in height from nine inches to two feet; and they were laid so as to break joint, though not always in a workmanlike manner. The remains of the town occupy some undulating ground, of less elevation, a quarter of a mile to the northward. This also forms a rectangle, one-fifth by one-third of a mile in size; through the middle runs lengthwise a straight street, twenty feet in width. The walls of some of the ruins are thirty feet high, and cross each other at right angles. The buildings were apparently connected together, except where the streets intervened. The larger areas were again divided by thinner partitions, and one of them was observed to contain four rectangular pits, the plastering of which appeared quite fresh. No traces of doors or windows towards the streets could be discovered, nor indeed anywhere else. The walls were exclusively of sun-dried brick, and their direction, north-east and south-west, the same as those of the temple, which fronted the sea. Some graves were observed to the southward of the temple, but the principal burying-ground was between the temple and town. Some of the graves were rectangular pits, lined with a dry wall of stone, and covered

with layers of reeds and canes, on which the earth was filled in to the depth of a foot or more, so as to be even with the surface. The skulls brought from this place were of various characters; the majority of them presented the vertical elevation, or raised occiput, the usual characteristic of the ancient Peruvians, while others had the forehead and top of the head depressed. Eight of these were obtained, and are now deposited at Washington. The bodies were found enveloped in cloth of various qualities, and a variety in its colours still existed. Various utensils and other articles were found, which seemed to denote the occupation of the individual: wooden needles and weaving utensils; netting made in the usual style; a sling; cordage of different kinds; a sort of coarse basket; fragments of pottery, and plated stirrups. They also found various vegetable substances; husks of Indian corn, with ears of two varieties, one with the grain slightly pointed, the other, the short and black variety, which is still very commonly cultivated; cotton seeds; small bunches of wool; gourd-shells, with a square hole cut out, precisely as is done at present. These furnished evidence of the style of the articles manufactured before the arrival of the Spaniards, and of the cultivation of the vegetable products; when to these we add the native tuberous roots (among them the potato) cultivated in the mountains, and the animals found domesticated, viz., the llama, dog, and Guinea-pig, and the knowledge of at least one metal, we may judge what has since been acquired.

THE NATIVES OF THE ISLAND OF MINERVA.

The meeting with the natives of the Island of Minerva is interesting.

I saw some natives, five men and two women, and endeavoured to hold communication with them. The former were armed with long spears. They were cautiously watching our movements; and after the boats had left, they were seen examining the beach for articles that might have been dropped. Every inducement was held out to them to approach my boat, but without success; and we were obliged to return on board for the night, not having succeeded in finishing the survey. Wishing to communicate with the natives, and effect a landing, we lay-to, and by morning found that we had drifted off from the island eight miles to the north-west, and did not again reach our station until towards the afternoon. I then proceeded to the beach, taking with me as interpreter, John Sac, a New Zealander, who spoke the Tahitian language, determined, if possible, to enter into communication with the natives, and to land to make observations. Seventeen natives were now seen on the beach, armed with long spears and clubs, which they were brandishing with menacing attitudes, making motions for me to retire. As I approached them with a white flag flying, many more were seen in the bushes, probably in all about one hundred. I told John Sac to speak to them, which he did, and found he was understood. The only answer he could get from them was, several of them crying out at the same time, "Go to your own land; this belongs to us, and we do not want to have anything to do with you." It was impossible

to beach the boat without injury, on account of the surf and coral; and in order to land, it was necessary to swim a short distance, which could not be done without our being attacked, and suffering injury, before we had established a friendly intercourse. I therefore had recourse to throwing presents to them—all of which they eagerly took—assuring them that we were friends; but they still continued warning us off, and threatening us with their long spears. I am rather inclined now to think our interpreter was partly the cause of my not succeeding in overcoming their fears and scruples. John Sac was truly a savage, although he had imbibed some feelings of discipline, and was generally a well-disposed fellow. He was a petty New Zealand chief at the Bay of Islands, and had resided some time at Tahiti, where he said he was married. At times it was difficult to control John's movements. On this occasion he soon became provoked at the chief's obstinacy; and the idea of their receiving all our presents so greedily without even thanks in return, excited his native fire; his eyes shone fiercely, and his whole frame seemed agitated. Half naked as he was, his tattooing conspicuous, he stood in the bow of the boat brandishing his boat-hook like a spear with the dexterity of a savage. It was difficult to recognise the sailor in the fierce and majestic-looking warrior before us. The chief and John kept passing words until both were becoming vociferous, the one appearing as savage as the other. John's animated attitudes and gestures were the admiration of all. As we could not understand him, he may have said many things to irritate the savage chief

before he could be silenced, although he afterwards declared his innocence in that respect. I had been engaged for upwards of an hour endeavouring to overcome their fears, when I was joined by several boats from the other vessels. The officers being anxious to have communication with the natives, were desirous of landing, and I readily gave them permission to do so without arms. They passed a short distance from us, hoping to effect their purpose without opposition, but the natives separated, in order to oppose any landing. One or two officers swam through the surf without arms, and were boldly set upon by three of the natives, when they made a hurried retreat. This evidently gave the natives confidence, and their conduct became more violent. Mr Couthouy requested permission to land with presents, under the protection of the boat, to which I consented. He swam on shore, pausing now and then, for the purpose of showing the trinkets. The chief motioned him away, but he landed on the rocks. The chief, retiring, appeared as somewhat alarmed, while Mr Couthouy advanced towards him, holding out the presents. On being joined by another native, the chief stopped, raised his spear, and with a shout and distortion of countenance, made a pass at Mr Couthouy, who at once dropped looking-glasses, trinkets, &c., at his feet, and quickly made for the boat. The savage took no notice of the relinquished offerings, but advanced to attack him with his spear. When he had reached the edge of the surf, the chief made another thrust at him, but fortunately without injury. The precipitate retreat gave them still more confidence; they now began throwing pieces

of coral, numbers of which struck the men in my boat. I felt no disposition to do them harm, and yet I had no idea of letting them see and feel that they had driven us off without landing, well knowing, however, if a forcible landing took place, and they made resistance, that injury would befall one side, and probably both. I, therefore, thinking that they had no idea of fire-arms, ordered several blank cartridges to be fired; but they took no notice of them. According to John Sac, they hooted at these arms, calling us cowards, and daring us to come on shore. I then fired a small charge of mustard-seed shot at their legs, which did not produce any effect. Then Mr Peale, who was near by me, was requested to draw his ball, and load with mustard-seed, which he did; and Lieutenant North likewise fired, which caused the chief and all the rest to retreat, rubbing their legs. The officers were now permitted to land. under strict injunctions, in order to avoid all contact with the natives, not to leave the beach. So much time had been lost before I could get the instruments safely on shore, that I found it too late to make the observations I desired. The natives whom we saw, appeared to be a fine athletic race, much above the ordinary size. Their colour was darker than that of our Indians, but their features resembled them. No tatooing was observed on the men, and the women were not seen close enough to distinguish them. The hair of the former was long, black, and straight. The chiefs had theirs drawn back, and tied in a knot behind; the others had theirs hanging loose. They wore a small maro made of leaves, and the chiefs a pandanus-leaf around their necks, probably to dis-

tinguish their rank. The women wore a piece of tapa as a petticoat; they were not oiled, and the heads of some seemed filled with ashes or lime. They spoke and understood the Tahitian dialect. The only information obtained from them was, that vessels had before been there, but had gone away without landing. Immediately on their being driven from the beach, a large column of smoke was seen, no doubt a signal to the other inhabitants of the island. After being on the reef half an hour, we joined our boats, and returned on board near sunset. One canoe was reported, the next morning, as having been seen from the Peacock. The number of inhabitants that we saw certainly did not exceed one hundred and twenty.

EVENTS WHILE AT THE FEEJEE ISLANDS.

Our explorers next visited the Feejee Group, and found themselves "in the midst of a number of beautiful islands:"—

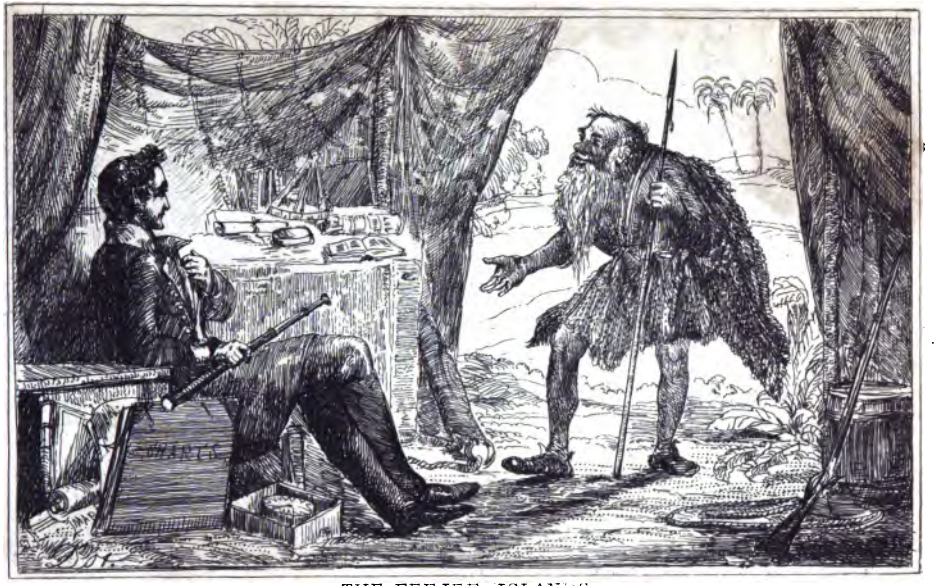
So beautiful was their aspect, that I could scarcely bring my mind to the realizing sense of the well-known fact, that they were the abode of a savage, ferocious, and treacherous race of cannibals. Each island has its own peculiar beauty, but the eye as well as mind felt more satisfaction in resting upon Ovolau, which, as we approached, had more of the appearance of civilization about it than the others; it is also the highest, most broken, and most picturesque. In consequence of light winds, we did not succeed in reaching the harbour of Levuka that evening, and passed the night under way, between Ovolau and Wakaia. At daylight on the 8th of May, we were

off the port, and made all sail for it. At nine o'clock being off the entrance, I took the precaution, as the breeze was light, to hoist the boats out (having to pass through a passage only eight hundred feet in width), and send them a-head to tow. At first it is not a little alarming to approach these entrances with a light wind, and often with a strong current setting in or out; the ship rolling and tossing with the swell as she nears the reefs, the deep blue water of the ocean curling into white foam on them, with no bottom until the entrance is gained, when a beautiful and tranquil basin opens to the view. The remarkable peculiarity of these coral harbours, if so I may call them, is that in gaining them, it is but an instant from the time the sea is left until security is found equal to that of an artificial dock; this is particularly the case with the harbour of Levuka. The shore was lined with natives, watching our progress with their usual curiosity; and it was amusing to hear the shouts of applause that emanated from the crowds on shore, when they witnessed the men, dressed all in white, running up the rigging to furl the sails. In passing to the anchorage, we saw a tiny boat, in which was David Whippey, one of the principal white residents here, with one of his naked children. This man ran away from a ship, commanded by his brother, that was trading in this group, in consequence of the ill treatment he received on board; he now has been eighteen years on this island, and is the principal man among the whites. He is considered a royal messenger, or Maticum Ambau, and is much looked up to by the chiefs. He speaks their language well; is a prudent trustwor-

thy person, and understands the character of the natives perfectly: his worth and excellent character I had long heard of.

The following story is curious:—

One day, while at the observatory, I was greatly surprised at seeing one whom I took to be a Feejeeman enter my tent, a circumstance so inconsistent with the respect to our prescribed limit, of which I have spoken. His colour, however, struck me as lighter than that of any native I had yet seen. He was a short wrinkled old man, but appeared to possess great vigour and activity. He had a beard that reached to his middle, and but little hair, of a reddish grey colour, on his head. He gave me no time for inquiry, but at once addressed me in broad Irish, with a rich Milesian brogue. In a few minutes he made me acquainted with his story, which, by his own account, was as follows:—His name was Paddy Connel, but the natives called him Berry; he was born in the county of Clare in Ireland; had run away from school when he was a little fellow, and after wandering about as a vagabond, was pressed into the army in the first Irish rebellion. At the time the French landed in Ireland, the regiment to which he was attached marched at once against the enemy, and soon arrived on the field of battle, where they were brought to the charge. The first thing he knew or heard, the drums struck up a White Boys' tune, and his whole regiment went over and joined the French, with the exception of the officers, who had to fly. They were then marched against the British, and were soon defeated by Lord Cornwallis;



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it was a hard fight, and Paddy found himself among the slain. When he thought the battle was over, and night came on, he crawled off and reached home. He was then taken up and tried for his life, but was acquitted; he was, however, remanded to prison, and busied himself in effecting the escape of some of his comrades. On this being discovered, he was confined in the Black Hole, and soon after sent to Cork, to be put on board a convict-ship bound to New South Wales. When he arrived there, his name was not found on the books of the prisoners; consequently he had been transported by mistake, and was, therefore, set at liberty. He then worked about for several years, and collected a small sum of money, but unfortunately fell into bad company, got drunk, and lost it all. Just about this time Captain Sartori, of the ship *General Wellesley*, arrived at Sydney. Having lost a great part of his crew by sickness and desertion, he desired to procure hands for his ship, which was still at Sandalwood Bay, and obtained thirty-five men, one of whom was Paddy Connel.

At Sandalwood Bay the crew quarrelled with the captain:—

Some of them shipped on board the *Gloriant*, and others, with Paddy, determined to remain on shore with the natives. He added that Captain Sartori was kind to him, and at parting had given him a pistol, cutlass, and an old good-for-nothing musket; these, with his sea-chest and a few clothes, were all that he possessed. He had now lived forty years among these savages. After hearing his whole story, I told him I did not believe a word of it; to which

he answered, that the main part of it was true, but he might have made some mistakes, as he had been so much in the habit of lying to the Feejeeans, that he hardly now knew when he told the truth, adding that he had no desire to tell anything but the truth. Paddy turned out to be a very amusing fellow, and possessed an accurate knowledge of the Feejee character. Some of the whites told me that he was more than half Feejee; indeed he seemed to delight in showing how nearly he was allied to them in feeling and propensities; and, like them, seemed to fix his attention upon trifles. He gave me a droll account of his daily employments, which it would be inappropriate to give here, and finished by telling me the only wish he had then, was to get for his little boy, on whom he doated, a small hatchet, and the only articles he had to offer for it were a few old hens. On my asking him if he did not cultivate the ground, he said at once no; he found it much easier to get his living by telling the Feejeeans stories, which he could always make good enough for them; these, and the care of his two little boys, and his hens, and his pigs, when he had any, gave him ample employment and plenty of food. He had lived much at Rewa, and until lately had been a resident at Levuka, but had, in consequence of his intrigues, been expelled by the white residents, to the island of Ambatiki. It appeared that they had unanimously come to the conclusion that if he did not remove, they would be obliged to put him to death for their own safety. I could not induce Whippy or Tom to give me the circumstances that occasioned this determina-

tion, and Paddy would not communicate more than that his residence on Ambatiki was a forced one, and that it was as though he was living out of the world, rearing pigs and fowls.

That there is, too, a sort of humanity in the wild nature of the Feejee, the following adventure of Dr Holmes, told by himself, may witness:—

I started alone to return, intending to deviate a little from time to time from the direct path, to collect a few botanical specimens. I had walked a short distance only, when I struck off into a fine cocoa-nut grove, and pursued my new path so long, that I was puzzled to retrace my steps. At length I thought I had succeeded, and reached the beach. * * I pursued my course along the beach for an hour or two quite cheerfully, expecting every moment to see the brig; but as I rounded point after point with quick steps and anxious eye, no vessel appeared, and I was fain to push on again for some more distant promontory, promising myself that there my walk was to end. After spending four hours in this manner, my strength began to fail, and I was forced to believe I was on the opposite side of the island to that where the brig was anchored. To retrace my steps was now impossible, and I was completely ignorant how far I should be forced to walk before I should be in safety. I pushed on until I was completely exhausted, and, moreover, found myself stopped by a thicket of mangroves, which was utterly impassable. I lay down upon the sand, determined to wait here until some surveying boat might chance to pass; this was but a poor alternative, as I was not aware the island was to be surveyed in this manner. I had heard

that it was inhabited, and of course could have little hope of kindness from a Feejee native. I pushed on a short distance, and lay down quite worn out. I had had no food or drink for eight or nine hours, and had been incessantly upon the move in a very hot day; the muscles of my legs were cramped and painful, and I could go no further. I committed myself to fortune. I had lain a few minutes only when I heard voices behind me, and looking around saw two huge natives, both well armed, running to the spot where I was lying; one was entirely naked, and the other wore a maro only. I was totally unarmed, and rising, offered my hand to the foremost one, at the same time giving them the native greeting. I was rejoiced to see that one of them was a Tongese. They shook hands with me in the most friendly manner, at the same time expressing and inquiring where I came from, who I was, and how I got there. I told them, as well as I could, that I was a "Turanga Papalangi," belonging to a "huangalevu," lying in the bay, and had lost my way; at the same time requesting them to guide me back to her, and provide me with water to quench my thirst. After a little parley, during which they were joined by two other Feejee men, they despatched one after cocoa-nuts, and began to examine my clothes and body, showing great curiosity, but being very respectful and good-natured. The nuts were soon brought, and, refreshed by the delicious draught, I set off to follow my guides, not without great distrust. But a short distance was sufficient to deprive me of all strength, and I could drag myself no far-

ther; after a consultation, one of them took me upon his back and carried me through the mangroves, another proceeding with a hatchet, to cut a path. At last I was brought safely to the spot where I had landed from the brig; guns from the brig, fired for me, served to guide my leaders. A boat was immediately sent for me, and I was taken on board, worn out with fatigue, but full of joy and gratitude for my safe return.

THE HOT SPRINGS OF SAVU-SAVU POINT.

I visited the hot springs, which are situated opposite a small island, round which a narrow arm of the bay passes, forming a small harbour; a considerable stream of fresh water enters the bay, about a mile above the situation of the springs. On landing, we found the beach absolutely steaming, and warm water oozing through the sand and gravel; in some places it was too hot to be borne by the feet. The hot springs are five in number; they are situated at some distance from the beach, and are nine feet above the level of high water; they occupy a basin forty feet in diameter, about half-way between the base of the hill and the beach. A small brook of fresh water, three feet wide by two deep, passes so close to the basin, that one hand may be put into a scalding spring, and the other in water of the temperature of 75°. That of the spring stands at 200° to 210°. The waters join below, and the united streams stand at 145°, which diminish in temperature until they enter the sea. In the lower part of the bed of the united

stream, excavations have been made, where the natives bathe. The rock in the neighbourhood, is compact coral and volcanic breccia, although it is nowhere to be seen exposed within a third of a mile of the spring. The ground about the spring is a deep brown and black mould, covered with coarse native grass (a species of Scirpus), which is thickly matted. There is no smell of sulphur, except when the head is brought as close as possible to the water; but it has a strong saline taste. No gas appears to be disengaged. The basin is in a mixture of blue and brown clay, and little grass grows in it. These springs are used by the natives to boil their food, which is done by putting the taro or yams into the spring, and covering them up with leaves and grass. Although the water scarcely had any appearance of boiling before, rapid ebullition ensues. It gurgles up to a height of eight or ten inches, with the same noise as is made by a cauldron when over the fire. Taro, yams, &c. that were put in, were well done in about fifteen minutes. The mouths of the springs are from eighteen inches to two feet in diameter, and have apparently been excavated by the natives for their own purposes. The account they give of them is, that they have always been in the same state since the spirit first took up his abode there. They are convinced that he still resides there, and the natives say that one spring is kept pure for him, which they do not use. There is one ambati or priest who has communication with the spirit, and there was a small mbure building between the springs and the beach. A chief amused me by saying, that

"the Papalangi had no hot water, and that the natives were much better off, for they could go to sleep, and when they woke up, they always found their water boiling to cook their food in."

THE VOLCANO OF HAWAII.

THE exploring party was somewhat numerous, and not ill provided:—

It consisted of two hundred bearers of burdens, forty hogs, a bullock and bullock-hunter, fifty bearers of poe (native food), twenty-five with calabashes, of different sizes and shapes, from two feet to six inches in diameter. Some of the bearers had large and small panels of the portable house on their backs; others, frying-pans or kettles; and others, tents or knapsacks. Then there were lame horses, which, instead of carrying their riders, were led by them; besides a large number of hangers-on, in the shape of mothers, wives, and children, equalling in number the bearers, all grumbling and complaining of their loads; so that wherever and whenever we stopped, confusion and noise ensued. I felt happy in not understanding the language, and of course was deaf to their complaints. It was very evident that the loads were unequally divided; and I must do the natives the justice to say, they had reason to complain, not of us, but of each other. It was impossible for the thing to be remedied at once, although it was not a little provoking to see several natives staggering under their loads, while one or two would be skipping along with a few pounds' weight only. At first many of them preferred the hog-driving

business; but I understand that they afterwards found out that it was no sinecure to drive a hog either of large or small size, and still less so to have charge of the bullock, who was half wild.

After passing Olaa, 1138 feet above the level of the sea, there was no distinct path.

The whole surface became a mass of lava, which retained all its metallic lustre, and appeared as if it had but just run over the ground—so small was the action of decomposition. There were only a few stunted bushes on our track; but some dense patches of wood were observed on the right. The day was warm, with a bright sun; and when we passed pools of water standing in the lava rock, as we frequently did, the natives would rush into them like overheated dogs, and seemed to enjoy the temporary coolness brought about by the evaporation.

At length they reached the crater of Kilauea:

Just as we reached the great plain of the volcano, we approached the southern limit of the wood, and, on turning its corner, Mauna Loa burst upon us in all its grandeur. The day was extremely fine, the atmosphere pure and clear, except a few flying clouds, and this immense dome rose before us from a plain some twenty miles in breadth. I had not, until then, formed any adequate idea of its magnitude and height. The whole dome appeared of a bronze colour, and its uninterrupted smooth outline was relieved against the deep blue of a tropical sky. * * So striking was the mountain, that I was surprised and disappointed when called upon by my friend, Dr Judd, to look at the volcano; for I saw

nothing before us but a huge pit, black, ill-looking, and totally different from what I had anticipated. There were no jets of fire, no eruptions of heated stones, no cones, nothing but a depression, that, in the midst of the vast plain by which it is surrounded, appeared small and insignificant. At the further end was what appeared a small cherry-red spot, whence vapour was issuing, and condensing above into a cloud of silvery brightness. This cloud, however, was more glorious than any I had ever beheld, and the sight of it alone would have repaid for the trouble of coming thus far. We hurried to the edge of the cavity, in order to get a view of its interior, and as we approached, vapour issuing from numerous cracks, showed that we were passing over ground beneath which fire was raging. The rushing of the wind past us was as if it were drawn inwards to support the combustion of some mighty conflagration. When the edge is reached, the extent of the cavity becomes apparent, and its depth became sensible by comparison with the figures of some of our party who had already descended. The vastness thus made sensible, transfixes the mind with astonishment, and every instant the impression of grandeur and magnitude increases. To give an idea of its capacity, the city of New York might be placed within it, and when at its bottom would be hardly noticed, for it is three and a half miles long, two and a half wide, and over a thousand feet deep. A black ledge surrounds it at the depth of six hundred and sixty feet, and thence to the bottom is three hundred and eighty-four feet. The bottom looks, in the daytime, like a

heap of smouldering ruins. The descent to the ledge appears to the sight a short and easy task, but it takes an hour to accomplish.

On making a descent the party reached the second ledge, and soon came to the edge of it; they were then directly over the pool or lake of fire, at the distance of about 400 feet above it, and the light was so strong that the smallest print could be read thereby.

The pool is 1500 feet long by 1000 feet wide. I was struck with the absence of any noise, except a low murmuring, like that which is heard from the boiling of a thick liquid. The ebullition was, (as is the case where the heat is applied to one side of a vessel), most violent near the northern side. The vapour and steam that were constantly escaping were so rarefied as not to impede the view, and only became visible in the bright cloud above us, which seemed to sink and rise alternately. We occasionally perceived stones, or masses of red-hot matter, ejected to the height of about seventy feet, and falling back into the lake again. The pathways lead down on the north-east side, over frightful chasms, sometimes on a mere edge of earth, and on rocks rent asunder to the depth of several hundred feet. Through these fissures steam issues, which as it reaches the upper part, condenses, and gives nourishment to masses of ferns, and an abundance of small bushes (Vaccinium), bearing a small berry of an agreeable flavour, called by the natives ohela. The descent, however, is not in reality difficult, except in a few places, where it requires some care in passing over the basaltic blocks, that are here piled in confused heaps. On approaching the black ledge, which from above appeared level and smooth,

it is seen to be covered with large pieces of lava, rising in places into cones thirty or forty feet high, which are apparently bound down by huge tortuous masses, which surround them like cables. In other places these are stretched lengthwise on the level ledge, and look like hideous fiery serpents with black vitreous scales, that occassionally give out smoke, and in some cases fire. * * To walk on the black ledge is not always safe, and persons who venture it are compelled for safety to carry a pole and feel before they tread over the deceitful path, as though they were moving over doubtful ice. The crackling noise made in walking over this crisp surface (like a coating of blue and yellow glass) resembles that made by treading on frozen snow in very cold weather. Every here and there are seen dark pits and vaulted caverns, with heated air rushing from them. Large and extended cracks are passed over, the air issuing from which, at a temperature of 180°, is almost stifling; masses are surmounted that it would seem as if the accumulated weight of a few persons would cause to topple over, and plunge the whole into the fiery pool beneath. * * To the bottom of the crater, there was a descent at the north-west angle of the black ledge, where a portion of it had fallen in, and afforded an inclined plane to the bottom. This at first appeared smooth and easy to descend, but on trial it proved somewhat difficult, for there were many fissures crossing the path at right angles, which it was necessary to get over, and the vitreous crust was so full of sharp spiculæ as to injure the hands and cut the shoes at every step. Messrs Waldron and

Drayton in their descent were accompanied by my dog Sydney, who had reached this distance, when his feet became so much wounded that they were compelled to drive him back; he was lamed for several days afterwards, in consequence of this short trip into the crater. These gentlemen, after much toil, finally reached the floor of the crater. This was afterwards found to be three hundred and eighty-four feet below the black ledge, making the whole depth nine hundred and eighty-seven feet below the northern rim. Like the black ledge, it was not found to have the level and even surface it had appeared from above to possess: hillocks and ridges, from twenty to thirty feet high, ran across it, and were in some places so perpendicular as to render it difficult to pass over them. The distance they traversed below was deceptive, and they had no means of ascertaining it but by the time it took to walk it, which was upwards of two hours, from the north extreme of the bottom to the margin of the large lake.

It is extremely difficult to reach this lake, on account of its overflowing at short intervals, which does not allow the fluid mass time to cool. The nearest approach that any one of the party made to it at this time was about fifteen hundred or two thousand feet; they were then near enough to burn their shoes and light their sticks in the lava which had overflowed during the preceding night. The smaller lake was well viewed from a slight eminence: this lake was slightly in action; the globules, (if large masses of red fluid lava, several tons in weight, can be so called), were seen heaving up at regular

intervals, six or eight feet in height; and smaller ones were thrown up to a much greater elevation. At the distance of fifty feet no gases were to be seen, nor was any steam evident, yet a thin smoke-like vapour arose from the whole fluid surface: no puffs of smoke were perceived at any time. At first it seemed quite possible to pass over the congealed surface of the lake, to within reach of the fluid, though the spot on which they stood was so hot as to require their sticks to be laid down to stand on. This idea was not long indulged in, for in a short time the fluid mass began to enlarge; presently a portion would crack and exhibit a bright red glare; then in a few moments the lava-stream would issu through, and a portion would speedily split off and suddenly disappear in the liquid mass. This kind of action went on until the lake had extended itself to its outer bank, and had approached to within fifteen feet of their position, when the guide said it was high time to make a retreat. * * One trip to the floor generally satisfies the most daring, and as long as a person remains there, he must feel in a state of great insecurity, and in danger of undergoing one of the most horrible of deaths, in being cut off from escape by the red molten fluid; yet a hardihood is acquired, which is brought about by the excitement, that gives courage to encounter serious peril in so novel a situation.

It was now resolved to visit the terminal crater. While engaged in this laborious excursion, a snow-storm came on.

The thermometer had gone down to 18°, and most of the men were much affected with the mountain-

sickness, with headache and fever, and were unable to do anything. I felt quite unwell myself from the same cause, having a violent throbbing of the temples and a shortness of breath, that were both painful and distressing. With the few men that remained able to work, I began building a circular wall of the clinkers, to enable us to spread what little canvass we had over it; all the blankets we could spare were hung inside, which I hoped would keep us from being frozen. After succeeding in this, which occupied us till dark, we made a fire to prepare our scanty supper, and some tea for the sick. I now discovered that three of the men were absent; and on inquiry, found that they had gone down, in hopes of finding my tent, which they supposed had been left about a mile below. One may judge of my uneasiness, as it was pitchy dark, and there was no trace whatever of a track, or anything by which they could find their way back, over many dangerous chasms. I had barely wood enough to heat the water for the sick, and no more than a piece or two of candle, without any lantern, and therefore no obvious means of making a signal. However, as necessity is the mother of invention, I turned my clothes out of the calabash, and fastening a piece of cotton shirt over it, made quite a respectable lantern: this was placed on the most conspicious point. After the light had been extinguished several times, and a series of difficulties encountered in relighting it, we succeeded in establishing our lighthouse; and though a feeble one, it had the desired effect. The men, when they first saw it, had already strayed off the track; and had it

not been for the lantern, would not have been able to join us again. They came back, crawling on their hands and knees; and had travelled thus for most of the distance. The whole time they had been absent was two hours and a half. Although I felt very much displeased with their departure without permission, I could not find fault with them,—so much was I rejoiced to see them in safety; and when I knew they had incurred all this fatigue and risk to make me more comfortable. The snow now began to fall fast. My steward, from his thoughtfulness, had an ample supply of tea, which he had carried in his knapsack to save it from being plundered; and consequently we had enough to supply all. The supper being ended, we stowed ourselves away within the circular pen; and while the men kept passing their jokes about its comforts, the wind blew a perfect hurricane without. I was glad to find the spirits of those who were sick began to revive. The thermometer had fallen to 15°. The height found by the barometer was thirteen thousand one hundred and ninety feet. * * Nothing can exceed the devastation of the mountain: the whole area of it is one mass of lava, that has at one time been thrown out in a fluid state from its terminal crater. There is no sand or other rock; nothing but lava, on whichever side the eye is turned. To appearance it is of different ages, some of very ancient date, though as yet not decomposed, and the alternations of heat and cold, with rain and snow, seemed to have united in vain for its destruction. In some places, it is quite smooth, or similar to what has already been described as the

pahoihoi or "satin stream;" again, it appears in the form of clinkers, which are seldom found in heaps, but lie extended in beds for miles in length, sometimes a mile wide, and occasionally raised from ten to twenty feet above the surface of the surrounding lava.

On this desolate spot the party remained three weeks, making observations. On their descent they again visited Kilauea and the Sulphur Bank:—

It is about one hundred and fifty yards in length by about forty wide, and is separated from the perpendicular basaltic rocks that bound the plain, by a chasm from which steam issues in quantities. By descending into it as far as the heat would admit, we obtained some beautiful crystallized masses of sulphur, which we found in small cavities. In some parts of the chasm, the temperature was at the boiling point. The bank seemed to be formed by the decomposition of the rock, through the agency of heat and water. Without the chasm, the bank was formed of an unctuous, red and blue clay, or rather marl, so nearly allied to a pigment, that I understood it had been used as a wash or paint by the missionaries. The steam from below seemed to be penetrating and saturating the whole bank. * * At about three o'clock, when I had reached the eastern edge of Lua Pele, all the party who were with me remarked a large column of smoke rising from that crater, and we, in consequence, ran towards the bank; but the sulphur-banks concealed the bottom of the crater and black ledge from our view. It immediately occurred to me, that an outbreak had taken place, by which the whole bottom of the lower crater had been over-

flowed, and that my friend, Dr Judd, would find himself in a dangerous position, as he must at the time be near it. Not being able to reach any place where we could relieve our apprehensions, we were forced to continue our route.

When we ascended the bank, it became evident that the eruption had taken place at the small crater: this gave rise to much uneasiness respecting the party that had gone down. I searched with my glass in every part of the crater, but saw no one, although I was convinced that they could not have proceeded up before us. When I returned to the encampment, Dr Judd was not to be found there, and nothing had been heard of him. I therefore felt great relief, when in about a quarter of an hour I saw the party returning. On greeting Dr Judd, I received from him the following account. After he left me, he proceeded with the natives down the ravine into the crater; thence along the black ledge to its western part, where he descended by the same toilsome path that had been followed a month before. After reaching the bottom, he found a convenient steam-hole, whence a strong sulphureous gas issued; and he then arranged the apparatus for collecting it. This was found to answer the purpose, and was readily and completely absorbed by water. The gas was then collected in a phial containing red-cabbage water turned blue by lime, when it became intensely red. Dr Judd then sought for a place where he might dip up some of the recent and yet fluid lava, but found none sufficiently liquid for the purpose. Failing here, he proceeded towards the great fiery lake at the southern

extremity of the crater. He found that the ascent towards this was rapid, because the successive flowings of the lava had formed crusts, which lapped over each other. This rock was so dark in colour, as to be almost black, and so hot as to act upon spittle just as iron, heated nearly to redness, would have done. On breaking through the outer crust, which was two or three inches thick, the mass beneath, although solid, was of a cherry-red. The pole with which the crust was pierced, took fire as it was withdrawn. It was evidently impossible to approach any nearer in this direction; for although the heat might not be so intense as to prevent walking on the crust, yet the crust itself might be too weak to bear the weight, and to break through would have been to meet a death of the most appalling kind. Dr Judd, therefore, turned towards the west bank, on which he mounted to a higher level over stones too hot to be touched, but from which his feet were defended by stout woollen stockings and sandals of hide, worn over his shoes. When he had proceeded as far as he could in this direction, he saw at the distance of about thirty feet from him, a stream of lava running down the declivity over which he and his companions had ascended.

The adventurous *savant*, however, was not to be daunted, but persevered in incurring new perils. One is thus related:—

On the sides of this crater, Dr Judd saw some fine specimens of capillary glass, "Pele's hair," which he was anxious to obtain for our collection. He, therefore, by the aid of the hand of one of the natives, descended, and began to select specimens. When

fairly down, he was in danger of falling, in consequence of the narrowness of the footing; but in spite of this difficulty, his anxiety to select the best specimens enticed him onwards. While thus advancing, he saw and heard a slight movement in the lava about fifty feet from him, which was twice repeated, and curiosity led him to turn to approach the place where the motion occurred. In an instant the crust was broken asunder by a terrific heave, and a jet of molten lava, full fifteen feet in diameter, rose to the height of about forty-five feet, with a most appalling noise. He instantly turned for the purpose of escaping; but found that he was now under a projecting ledge, which opposed his ascent, and that the place where he had descended was some feet distant. The heat was already too great to permit him to turn his face towards it, and was every moment increasing; while the violence of the throes, which shook the rock beneath his feet, augmented. Although he considered his life as lost, he did not omit the means for preserving it; but offering a mental prayer for the Divine aid, he strove, although in vain to scale the projecting rock. While thus engaged, he called in English upon his native attendants for aid; and looking upwards, saw the friendly hand of Kalumo,—who in this fearful occasion had not abandoned his spiritual guide and friend,—extended towards him. Ere he could grasp it, the fiery jet again rose above their heads, and Kalumo shrunk back, scorched and terrified, until excited by a second appeal, he again stretched forth his hand, and seizing Dr Judd's with a giant's grasp, their joint efforts

placed him on the ledge. Another moment, and all aid would have been unavailing to save Dr Judd from perishing in the fiery deluge. In looking for the natives, they were seen some hundreds of yards distant, running as fast as their legs could carry them. On his calling to them, however, they returned, and brought the frying-pan and pole. By this time, about ten or fifteen minutes had elapsed; the crater was full of lava, running over at the lower or northern side, when Dr Judd was enabled to dip up a pan of it; it was, however, too cold to take an impression, and had a crust on its top. On a second trial he was successful, and while it was red hot, he endeavoured to stamp it with a navy button, but the whole sunk by its own weight, being composed of a frothy lava, and became suddenly cold, leaving only the mark of the general shape of the button, without any distinct impression. The cake he thus obtained, (for it resembled precisely a charred pound cake,) was added to our collections, and is now in the hall where they are deposited. This lake I have designated as Judd's Lake, and believe that few will dispute his being entitled to the honour of having it called after him. Dr Judd now found that he had no time to lose, for the lava was flowing so rapidly to the north, that their retreat might be cut off, and the whole party be destroyed. They therefore at once took leave of the spot, and only effected their escape by running. When the danger was past, Dr Judd began to feel some smarting at his wrists and elbows, and perceived that his shirt was a little scorched. By the time he reached the tents, and we had examined him, he was

found to be severely burnt on each wrist, in spots of the size of a dollar, and also on his elbows, and wherever his shirt had touched his skin. Kalumo's whole face was one blister, particularly that side which had been most exposed to the fire. The crater had been previously measured by Dr Judd, and was found to be thirty-eight feet deep by two hundred feet in diameter. The rapidity of its filling (in twelve minutes) will give some idea of the quantity of the fluid mass.

The party could not help revisiting the lake, which now seems to have become fascinating from association. Towards evening, to view the eruption flowing from it, they walked down to the edge of the bank, and witnessed a spectacle that exceeded their expectations:—

The most brilliant pyrotechnics would have faded before what we now saw. A better idea of the light given out by this volcano will be obtained by the fact that it sometimes produces rainbows in the passing rain-clouds, one of which was seen by Mr Drayton. The whole bottom of the crater north of Judd's Lake, upwards of a mile and a half in length, and half a mile in width, was covered with fluid lava, running in streams, as though it had been water. These here and there divided, and then joined again, tumbling in rapids and falls over the different ledges. The streams were of a glowing cherry-red colour, illuminating the whole crater around; the large lake beyond seemed swelling and becoming more vivid, so that we expected every moment to see an overflow from it of greater grandeur. We sat watching the progress of both for many hours under great excitement, and saw the formation of pools of the igneous liquid, one after the other, until accumulating they

overflowed the banks, and rushed on to fill some cavities beyond. We could not but feel ourselves identified with this spectacle, by the occurrences of the day, and in particular by the fortunate escape of our companion; and we sat speculating on the horrible situation of one cut off from escape by these red-hot streams. The sight was magnificent, and worth a voyage round the world to witness. It was with regret that I returned to our tent, determining in my own mind to have a nearer view of this overflow in the morning. We arose early, and our attention was immediately called to the crater. The large lake had sunk out of sight from our position, while the smaller one was seen to be still overflowing its banks, thus proving satisfactorily that their fires had no connexion with each other. Upon the whole I was glad to see this state of things, as it would afford me an opportunity of getting near the large lake, to obtain an accurate measurement of it.

LOSS OF THE FIRE-FLY.

The following narrative is from the Dumfries Courier, to the Editor of which the details were supplied by Dr Dick, the surgeon of the ship.—

The brig Fire-Fly, Captain Kerr, commander, bound for New Calabar, on a trading voyage, and laden with a general cargo, left Liverpool on the 14th ultimo, shortly after noon. After clearing the docks and entering the river, she was towed as far as the Lighthouse, by the Mona steam-tug, from which

point she set sail at 4 P. M., steering N.NW., aided by the influence of a favouring breeze. The atmosphere even then somewhat hazy; light rains, too, fell, with intervals between, up to eight o'clock, after which the fog became more dense, accompanied by drizzling moisture, with little intermission, up till pretty near the hour of midnight, Previously Dr Dick, M. D., and surgeon to the ship, had been on deck assisting to keep a good look out; but on observing that vigilance was duly exercised, and the greatest pains taken by the captain, the second officer, and the watch on duty, he at length ventured to retire to rest. His sleep, however, was not a long one; and whether sound or otherwise, scarcely two hours had elapsed, when he was aroused by tremendous cries of "Keep her off—keep her off—helm to port—helm to port—hard to port—hard to port," &c. &c. These sounds were sufficiently alarming, and anon a fearful shock ensued, accompanied by such a cracking of timbers, as convinced the surgeon that collision of some sort had been the fate of the Fire-fly, in all probability with some other vessel, despite the persevering efforts made on deck to avert by every means the possibility of such an accident. Immediately the surgeon left his cot, and rushed on deck in his shirt, haunted by the idea that the vessel was about to sink in deep water; while the first object that met his view was the steamer that had occasioned the whole mischief, proceeding on her course as if nothing had happened, although vociferously hailed to turn back. On ascertaining these signals of distress, Dr Dick rushed back to the cabin, threw

on such garments as he could most readily find in the dark, and then ran forward to ascertain, as correctly as possible under the circumstances, the full extent of the injury the brig had sustained, stopping by the way to encourage the men engaged at the pumps, depressed rather than animated by the impression that theirs was indeed a struggle between life and death. The bows, when attentively examined, were found torn and stove, more particularly the starboard bow; and from these and other appearances, it became too certain, that the vessel would soon founder, however untiring and herculean the exertions of her crew.

After orders had been given to launch the boat, in the hope of attracting the attention of the steamer that slackened not her pace, she after a little time was discovered returning with two lights on her starboard quarter, and then for the first time the commander inquired whether the brig had been damaged by the collision; but when answered in the affirmative, in place of dispatching his boat to the wreck, he requested those on deck to send their own to the steamer. Although this appeared strange, the boat was launched as speedily as possible, and when the men sent to guide it were about to put off, the word was given that not a single rowing pin was forthcoming. After some little delay a piece of wood was found, fitted, if split, for the purposes required; but, unfortunately, every axe was missing. In this way half-an-hour elapsed, the steamer in the meantime plying round the Fire-fly, going off, perhaps, out of sight, and again returning, recalled by the outcries of the

sinking crew, and the lights exhibited on the starboard of the wreck. Such, indeed, were the panic and confusion, heightened by the thick darkness which brooded around that every oar for a time was amissing until the surgeon picked up one among the crew's feet. Calls were again made for the Fire-fly's boat, and an answer returned that it was out of order. By this time the carpenter had announced six feet of water in the hold, and the steamer then being at some distance, Dr Dick jumped into the long-boat to essay whether it could not be got afloat; but in vain, from want of an axe to cut the fastenings. It was then he felt a decided emotion of terror, and a sinking of the heart, more easily conceived than described: but the fit was momentary, and, in place of relaxing, he redoubled his efforts to secure the only remaining chance of escape—the steamer brought alongside as nearly as possible. Hailing and re-hailing were, as a last effort, resorted to with the greatest energy, while two lights were kept moving to and fro in the brig, in the direction in which the steamer had on the last occasion dissappeared. And at length her red lights were perceived at the distance of 400 or 500 yards, twinkling dimly through the haze, and bearing down on the Fire-fly.

At this juncture the men had abandoned the pumps in despair, on finding the vessel filling so fast, while the helmsman, who had similarly deserted his wheel, was seen under the dim light of the binnacles tearing his hair, and exclaiming unceasingly, "Lost, lost, lost!" By persuasion, however, he was wiled back to his post, and then the Kroomen, six in number,

resumed operations, in all probability at the most critical moment supervening the collision. It is astonishing what willing arms applied to pumping can effect in the case of an accidentally disabled ship, and again there was a momentary gleam of hope when the steamer reappeared within 40 or 50 yards, and at length alongside, although not until the main deck was level with the water. Thus favoured, at the eleventh hour, or rather beyond, the boat was got round; but, when at length afloat, from the want of gearing, seemed to be little if at all under the control of the crew. Never can the writer, who communicates, forget the heart-rending cries, simultaneously raised when the steamer for the last time stopped short at a distance of about 15 yards, as if those who manned her dreaded the consequences of a second collision, and durst not risk it for their own safety. The wild shrieks uttered, with the moanings that died more faintly away, were sufficient to melt a heart of stone; "Come alongside—we're sinking, sinking!" would have found mournful echoes had the solid land been nearer, and contrasted dismally with the three hearty cheers which saluted the ill-fated barque when she left her moorings in the port of Liverpool, little more than 12 hours previously.

The steamer being at length within grappling distance, the surgeon lost no time in springing into her rigging; and then commenced a fearful struggle to get over her bulwarks, rendered the more difficult from so many clinging to the same points, and the terror of cattle close at hand, threatening amidst the darkness to toss every adventurer overboard. The horned

animals cleared, Dr Dick immediately made for the quarter-deck to survey the wreck; at that awful moment not a sound was uttered, although shortly after the wail of woe was distinctly heard. Again all was still for a few moments, when a gurgling sound again smote the ear; and though the gulf between the two vessels was then 50 or 60 yards, a rope was instantly thrown overboard. As near as may be at the same time, the commander of the steamer exclaimed, "I'll go no nearer at so great a risk, for the sake of a single individual." On this Captain Kerr said the surgeon should take a note of this determination—surely one life was precious, and a life-buoy, in consequence, was thrown overboard, the steam-master remarking that to approach nearer might risk the foundering of both vessels.

The cries of distress had now become fainter, although gurgling sounds were still audible, as if proceeding from persons struggling in the water. Cessation, however, quickly followed, and then the commander of the Britannia steamer, Dublin, inquired of Captain Kerr and his friend whether there was any necessity for tarrying longer? To this question Captain Kerr having made no answer, the surgeon said he feared all hope was lost, but expressed, in the same breath, his conviction that a boat might have been dispatched in time to save them all. To this the ready answer was, that no sooner had the collision occurred, than they became all masters on board; that his crew refused to obey their head officer, and that one man in particular averred, that if they ventured to go alongside the wreck, every soul

on board would jump into the boat, and infallibly swamp her; and not only this, but that his venturing to return in the first instance was contrary to the wish of all on board—a circumstance which accounted for the numerous returns and departures of the steamer.

Out of 23 individuals that embarked in the Firefly, all were eventually saved except the chief mate, the individual who was heard struggling in the water. But he had been somewhat wilful, as was afterwards ascertained, by maintaining that his vessel was not much damaged: that she would still float; and that in place of a boat, it would be better to crave a tug from the steamer into Beaumaris harbour. His last words were, "I'll not desert her—I'll stick to the last," after which he ran aft to the cabin, in place of seizing the rope thrown overboard.

SCENES OF EASTERN TRAVEL.

FROM "Letters from a German Countess," we make a few extracts, which will both amuse and instruct the reader. The volumes consist chiefly of notes of a tour through Turkey, Egypt, and Palestine, and they are written in a very lively manner. We open at random upon an Arab marriage ceremony at Beyrout.

AN ARAB MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

A MARRIAGE festivity has always something of constraint and unpleasantness about it; the tumult is annoying to the newly-wedded pair, and the guests hardly know why they must make themselves so

merry. But our European weddings have nothing to rival the torment of an Arab marriage-feast. The knot was tied about noon, according to the rites of the Greek church. After this the bride was conducted into one chamber and the bridegroom into another—she surrounded with her female relatives and friends, and he with all the gentlemen to keep him company;—and thus, separately, the young couple were entertained with music, songs, dances, conversations, visits, eating and drinking—only for three days and three nights—no longer! What do you think of such a colossal capacity for amusement? I must confess that I was wearied even with my half-hour's visit. The master of the house, a cousin of the fatherless bride, received me, and led me into the ladies' apartment. As I entered they all rose from the low broad sofa, so as to stand upon the cushion, and at this evolution the bride was supported on each side by her neighbours, as it is a point of etiquette on such an occasion that she should move as little as possible. I was allowed to take a seat beside her, and had a fair opportunity of contemplating her remarkable figure. A figure, indeed, and very much like a doll! She must not speak a syllable, must not look upon a person, nor change a feature, nor open an eye—to make this last point of etiquette sure, the eyelashes are besmeared with some gummy composition. Her eyebrows are painted black, and high-arched; her cheeks are painted red; the hands are tatooed with dark blue arabesque, and the finger-nails stained yellow. Certainly, if after three days such a bride was introduced to a European, his first

exclamation would be, "Wash yourself, my angel!" As there was neither music nor dancing here, I was glad to hasten my visit to the bridegroom, who was confined in another room by Arab marriage-etiquette. But he was allowed to move, talk, and look about him, and, indeed, seemed very cheerful. Here there was music. In a corner of the room the musicians were seated on the floor, one beating upon two little kettle-drums, another striking a sort of dulcimer, and the third labouring upon some little stringed instrument—all three singing too with all their bodily might, in the most discordant tones that can issue from the human throat, mingling together wild screams, with guttural and nasal sounds—a terrible concert! I stayed a little while, and then made my escape, glad enough that I had not to stay, like the other visitors, until the next morning. I have nerves strong enough to encounter some hardships, but not for such amusements.

THE JOURNEY ON THE DESERT.

I HAVE given you some account of the material character of my Desert journey, in which you will find little that is interesting, and as to the intellectual part, it is still more barren of interest. Never did the pilgrim tarry willingly upon this waste of sand. The great caravans of devotees on their pilgrimage to Mecca, and others of a trading character leave behind them here no traces, save graves and scattered bones. Dead camels, in all the stages of decay, from those lately fallen to those of which the

white skeletons are alone remaining, mark out the way. The graves of pilgrims who have died in the desert, from want, disease, or exhaustion, are marked out by little heaps of sand, with the bones of animals stuck around them, and are common objects. In the air large birds of prey sail slowly round and round; crows with wild harsh croakings and heavy flapping wings are seen in great numbers, and cat-like beasts of prey lurk among the low shrubs—all seeking for corpses! The desert is a grave-yard in its most disconsolate form. The sea, the mountains are solitary, and, sometimes, seem melancholy in their lone dreariness; but if there is no life in them there are no memorials of death. On the granite peaks and on the foaming billows there are no marks of human decay. The rocks and waves are undefiled with the dust of mouldering bones, and present to us in their vastness, infinitude, and unbroken calmness, a symbol of eternity, in contrast with which this short earthly life seems but like a morning dream. There is something more than a mere pleasure for the eye in such solitudes. The heart beats more peacefully there. But here, in the Desert, death keeps house, and all around are the remains of a once restless and miserable life. Death is sublime when we consider him as the conqueror, and, at the same time, the supporter of a life which he only overcomes that it may arise again in an everlasting *palingenesia*. But here it is "dust to dust"—that is all. I tried to find a source of brighter thoughts in recurring to history; but here what a contrast between the sea and the desert! On the waves, how manifold the crossing

tracks of gay fleets, armadas, and naval heroes! what a crowd of great thoughts and undertakings, colossal speculations, and adventurous enterprises! No passion, good or bad, is there that has not urged men over the waves. Gold, happiness, dominion, love, freedom—all have been pursued on the sea; avarice, love of glory, thirst for discovery, philanthropy, science, misery, restlessness—all have played their part, and sought to be carried to their desired objects on the waves. Of all these there is no trace left in the desert. Great armies have crossed the sands, it is true—Cambyses with his Persians, Alexander, Zenobia (the proud woman, who degraded her husband just as the Oriental men now degrade their women), and other conquerors have passed through the desert; but they have left only desolation behind them. I could find, therefore, no historical interest to enliven me here. The stars were beautiful on the distant horizon—where are they not? and the morning and the evening glow, sunrise and all the changes of the heavens, were beautiful, and furnished my only entertainment.

We found night quarters at the village of Abuhamed, surrounded by morasses and inundation, which seemed a very unwholesome halting-place, especially as we arrived there during a heavy shower of rain. The next morning was most beautiful. Here the country changes its character, or rather man has changed it, for, like the whole of Egypt, it would be a desert without the means of irrigation derived from the overflowing of the Nile. From Abuhamed to Cairo it is a day and a half's journey, and, as we

proceeded, we had to our left hand the dead plain, while on our right hand extended groves of palm-trees, cotton-trees, fields of maize, and pools of water; on one side the wilderness, and on the other an Eden; on the left the bright yellow of the desert, and on the right a verdure sparkling like enamel. As we proceeded, the plain began to be diversified with human life. The inhabitants of the villages were carrying oranges, citrons, dates, and bananas to the city, and travellers, tradespeople, trains of camels and asses, and mounted soldiers showed us that we were approaching the suburbs of Cairo. A number of ornamental minarets arose out of the crowd of houses before us, surrounded and interspersed with palms and other trees. In the foreground a row of windmills elevated their ungraceful forms upon sand-hillocks, and, here and there, large grave-monuments stood detached from the extensive burial-grounds. But in the background, beyond the city, two mighty forms arise—are they hills? they are too regularly formed—are they buildings? they seem too gigantic—they are the pyramids of Gizeh.

VOYAGE ON THE NILE.

We give the following, as one of the pleasantest passages, from her Nile voyage.

These evenings on the Nile are the most beautiful that I have ever enjoyed. In the daytime, the burning sun-rays are so powerfully reverberated from the water, the desert sand, and the chalky hills, that one does not feel disposed to quit the cabin. But, to-

wards evening, you come out, recline for a couple of hours upon a broad sofa, and breathe the light, bland, fresh air. The sun sinks behind the dark blue Libyan hills, while his beams fall upon the Arabian summits as on a prism, clothing them with the hues of flowers, butterflies, and gems. Some of the hills look like great glowing roses, others like chains of amethysts in a golden setting. The quiet water faithfully mirrors the beautiful vision, only as with a light gauzy veil breathed over it. The perfumes of spring-tide fill the atmosphere, fields of rape-seed, beans, lupines, vetches, and cotton-trees lie around us all in bloom: acacia shrubs, interwoven with lilac and blue coloured parasites, surround the water-wheels by which the fields are irrigated, or flourish on the banks of the river. The balsamic, refreshing fragrance is like the breath of spring in our fields and woods during the fairest season of the year. Wild doves are craddled upon the palm-branches, or cooing and coquetting among the bushes. Water-fowl sit in clusters upon the sand-banks, here some marble white, there others raven black, chirping out their monotonous evening song, which they seem to have learned from the uniform plashing of the river by which they dwell. Sometimes a large heron floats over the stream, and, now and then, the pelican, with heavy-flapping wings, dives after a fish. When the sun is down and the evening glow has faded, another softer radiance arises in the south, to clothe the pale mountains again with rosy tints. Meanwhile the stars have arisen, Venus fairest of all, Orion ascends over the Arabian hills, then, later,

arises Canopus, which you never see at home. We float down as if between two heavens. The silver flood of the Nile is a firmament full of softly shining tremulous stars, while those above, large and steady, look out like angels' eyes, and have nothing of that glimmering, as if they trembled with cold, which you see in your clear winter nights. On the banks of the river life is stirring. Fires are burning in the villages, and the hearths are before the door-ways of the huts. Flocks of bleating sheep and goats are driven homewards; dogs barking, asses braying, and children shouting swell the concert. Men are singing, keeping time with their action as they fill their well-buckets from the Nile, and empty them into the troughs which convey the water. Solitary songs from those returning singly from the fields, loud conversations and calls are heard far and wide. The Arabs call to each other from boat to boat, or across the river—I might almost say from village to village, so conversational are these people, and always in a tone that sounds to me like a threatening cry. In a lonely barge one is beguiling the time by striking the *darabukah*, the dull tones of which remind me of the guitar. At last all is still, and coolness comes over the water.

GREEK BRIGANDS.

SEVERAL curious details respecting the habits of the Greek brigands in their more organized state were supplied me by some veteran Philhellenes at Argos, from experience furnished in the course of their own military career. Their system of organization is very complete. Each band is distributed into three, or at the most four classes. The first comprehends the chief alone, the second his officers or more accomplished marauders, the third the remainder of the gang. The booty is distributed into a corresponding number of shares. The chief is entitled to one for himself, and each subdivision of his force to another respectively. As the number of each rank is in the inverse ratio of their merit, the emoluments of the various members are thus in the proportion of their services. When acting in detached parties, for the more ready communication with each other or with head quarters, they have a system of signals; which consists in piling stones in small cairns or pillars, conveying, according to their variety of form and arrangement, or the number of stones employed, like the ciphers of our telegraphs, each a different signification to the initiated. When on the march, and anxious to observe secrecy in their movements, they are careful never to follow the beaten track for more than a certain distance at a time; but every two or three miles the whole party strike off at separate tangents into the mountains, and remuster at a preconcerted point on a more

advanced stage of their journey. While on the road, they travel in single file, one in front of the other; and the last two or three of each party drag a bush behind them, to efface the mark of their footsteps in the dust. Similar precautions are taken at their bivouacs to destroy all trace of their movements. Their fires they manage in such a manner as to leave no black spot on the ground, by placing a thick layer of green wood below, on which the dry is piled and lighted, as upon a hearth; and before leaving the place, they lift the lower stratum in one mass, with the ashes on the top of it, carry it to some distance, and strew it in the recesses of the forest. In laying their ambush, their tactic is to entrap their victims into the very centre of their body, and then, starting suddenly out upon them from their lurking-places, to hem them in on every side with a chevaux-de-frise of muskets pointed at their breasts, so as to prevent the possibility of either resistance or escape. The travellers receive at the same moment (unless the object is to kill or make prisoners, rather than mere plunder) the order to lie on their faces; when a portion of the gang stands guard over them while the remainder dispose of their baggage. The art they possess of concealing their persons on such occasions, is said to be most extraordinary; doubling themselves up behind stones or bushes, often to all appearance scarcely large enough to cover their bodies, studying the form and colour of the surface of the ground, and adapting it to that of their own clothes, so that an inexperienced person might even cast his eye over them, and yet pass

them unobserved like a hare or rabbit in its form. One of my informants assured me that he had in one instance suddenly found himself encompassed by a body of a dozen or fifteen armed men, on ground where he could scarcely before have thought it possible a single one could have found a hiding-place; so that, on looking around afterwards, it appeared almost as if his enemies had sprung up, like the Cadmean heroes of old, from the bowels of the earth. Skill and boldness in the conduct of an ambush were as essential in the tactics of the ancient heroes as of the modern Klephts; and there can be little doubt that these very arts were as carefully studied and as successfully practised by a Diomedes as by a Kolocotroni. The best precaution against this danger is a little dog trained to range the ground in front of his master, and whose instinct will effectually baffle the utmost perfection of Klephtic wisdom or ingenuity.—*Mure's Tour in Greece.*

WHALE FISHERY OF THE UNITED STATES.

SECOND only in maritime importance among nations, the United States of America outstrips all other countries in this perilous traffic. United States' ships may now be seen lingering for supplies in all the western ports of South America, and one hundred of them annually recruit at the Sandwich Islands. They have scoured every part of the Pacific; and the coasts of Japan, embracing that part of the Pacific Ocean

lying between the longitude of 140° to 160° east, and the longitude of 28° to 32° north, are now the scene of their most successful labours. Thence they frequently return home, around the Cape of Good Hope—circumnavigating the globe in a three years' voyage. During the war, the whale-fishery, with all other American sea-traffic, disappeared before the indomitable power of the British navy; but Nantucket, maintaining a neutral position, a specified number of their whalers were not only authorised by the British government to continue their expeditions, but some were actually permitted to transport their oil into England. Since the termination of that war, the whale-fishery has advanced with unprecedented activity. Port after port has launched her ships into the Pacific; and whaling companies have throughout the northern States of the Union been formed, from Wiscasset in Maine, to Wilmington in Delaware. An aggregate of four hundred ships, (including a few barks and brigs under that name,) was engaged in the year 1835 in the whale-trade of the United States. To show how actively and continuously the pursuit is kept up, we may mention, that of the 184 vessels belonging to the ports of New Bedford, 171, navigated by 4,242 men, were actually at sea on the 30th of September, 1833, and about the same proportion from other places. Although ignorant of the exact number of vessels now employed in the trade, we are assured, by competent authority, they have greatly increased since 1835, and cannot now be estimated at much under 500. The business naturally divides itself into the sperm and common whale-

fisheries. In the former were, in 1835, employed 250 ships, whose average voyages are from 30 to 36 months in duration. Each of these ships may be valued, with the outfits, at 35,000 dollars. In the latter are employed one hundred and fifty ships; each of those ships, with the outfit, costs 18,000 dollars, and the average length of the voyage is ten months. The sperm-whalers generally load on the coast of Japan, though great quantities of sperm oil are taken in other parts of the Pacific, on the coast of Africa, and near the Azores. The chief and almost exclusive field of the common whale fishery is on the coast of Brazil and Patagonia. While the northern fishermen are obliged to bring home the blubber from which the oil is extracted, the American whalers have small works for extracting it, erected on deck. The scraps and pieces of carcasses are used for fuel. The oil, when first extracted, is neither nauseous nor rancid; and, as a proof of its sweetness, cakes fried in the boilers are considered a great delicacy by the sailors. The sperm oil and spermaceti candles are almost entirely consumed in the States, in the lamp, and the factory, the hall and the parlour. The common whale oil is mostly exported to the north of Europe, and the greater proportion of the whalebone also finds its way too, and is generally spread over, our own division of the world.

The whale trade of the United States is now, at least for the present generation, stretched to its greatest extent; and the shrewdest merchants connected with it already consider, that in the expansion of the sperm-whale fishery they have been too san-

guine, and begin to anticipate a reverse. The markets for their common whale oil are now precarious; they fluctuate with the fortunes of the Greenland fishery, and prices are more or less dependent on the crops and manufactures of the vegetable oils in Europe. Before the bounties formerly given to British whalers were done away with in 1824, the Americans boasted that their economy and skill would drive our whalers from the ocean when that event took place. The boast thus made has not been vain or empty; for it is a notorious fact, that the British common whale-fishery is rapidly declining. It is true that there seems no reason to apprehend any deficiency in the supply of oil from such falling off; for the adequate demand can easily be obtained from vegetable oils, and the application of tallow to several purposes to the exclusion of train oil. It is equally true, that the apophthegm of Dr Franklin, that he who draws a fish out of the sea, draws out a piece of silver, is valueless when practically applied, if in fishing up one piece of silver, we are obliged to throw another of equal value into the sea. True it may also be, that the British whale-fishery has for a lengthened period partaken more of the nature of a gambling adventure than of a regular industrious pursuit—the ships sometimes not getting half a cargo, sometimes coming home clean, frequently suffering great damage by shipwreck, and not unfrequently being totally lost—but, while making these admissions, we cannot agree to what has been of late years repeatedly asserted, that the whale-fishery is not of so much consequence as a nursery for seamen as is commonly

supposed. We find, that many of those heroes who have carried the British trident triumphantly over the globe, and eclipsed the naval glories of Carthage, Venice, and Holland, were conversant with the whale-fishery science and toils. The veteran, who with one eye and one arm carried destruction into the combined fleets of France and Spain at Trafalgar, and who was transported from thence to an immortal kingdom, with a glory scarcely less than prophetic, first signalized his decision and prowess under the same arctic sky to which the British whaler was exposed. If the longest voyages that are made over the ocean; if the navigation of every sea on the globe, serene or boisterous; if the strictest discipline and subordination of large crews, constitute a nursery for seamen—then is the whale-fishery such a nursery, and as such ought it to be encouraged. But if the British whale-fishery, even in its declining state, giving employment to scarcely 5000 men, ought still to be looked on as a nursery for the British navy, does it not imperiously demand encouragement, when we reflect that the United States whale-fishery, giving employment to 12,000 men, is viewed by the Union as a nursery for its navy, which, to use the words of an American writer on the subject, "it is its pride and duty to protect?" It is under this aspect that the United States whale-fishery, is to be contemplated with most anxiety and apprehension by the British nation and government. Accidents seldom occur in the American whalers, and the men are generally more healthy than in any other seafaring employment. Among the accidents that have

occured, the loss of the ship Essex, of Nantucket, is one of the most remarkable. An authentic narrative of the event was published by the mate of the ship, Mr Chase. According to this narrative, the Essex was actually attacked in the South Pacific Ocean by a large sperm whale, about eighty-five feet in length ("who smote his jaws together as if distracted with rage and fury,") near the equator, at 1000 miles distant from land. While the greater part of the crew were away in the boats killing whales, the few people remaining on board saw an enormous whale come up close to the ship, and when very near, he appeared to sink down for the purpose of avoiding the vessel, and in so doing he struck his body against some part of the keel, which was broken off by the force of the blow, and floated to the surface; the whale was then observed to rise a short distance from the ship, and come, apparently with great fury, towards it, striking one of the bows with its head with amazing force, and completely staving it in. The ship of course immediately filled, and fell over her bows, in which dreadful position the poor fellows in the boats saw their only home. They made for the wreck, and had only time to take the few who had been left on board, and some provisions, before it sunk. One boat was never heard of afterwards. The crews of the others suffered every misery that can be conceived, from famine and exposure. In the captain's boat they drew lots for the privilege of being shot, to satisfy the hunger of the rest. After nearly three months, the captain's boat, with two survivors, and the mate's boat with three, were taken up at sea,

two thousand miles from the scene of the disaster, by different ships. In 1807, the ship Union, of Nantucket, was totally lost by a similar concussion. But no other instance is, we believe, known, in which the mischief is supposed to have been malignantly designed by the assailant; and the most experienced whalers believe that, even in the case of the Essex, the attack was not intentional. To some minds the pursuit of the gigantic game has a tinge of the romantic. Many become passionately attached to the business, notwithstanding all its privations, and reluctantly leave it at last. They have moments of pleasing anxiety, and meet with some incidents of the most enlivening cast. On the south-east coast of Africa is Delagoa Bay, a capacious place, frequented by vessels from various parts of the world. In this bay, a few years since, a whale was observed about equally distant from an American and an English ship. From both, the boats were lowered, manned, and pushed off in an instant. They sped with the velocity of the wind. The English, at first a-head, perceiving their rivals gaining upon them, bore wide off, to keep them out of the reach of the whale. When the two boats were nearly abreast, the American "headsman," with extraordinary agility, hurled the ponderous lance over the English boat; it struck the monster in the vital part; the English boat made from the warp—the waves were crimsoned with blood—and the Americans took possession, while the whole bay resounded with shouts of applause.—*From the Colonial Magazine.*

THE SHARK AND THE SPECTACLES.

SOMETIMES we used to catch a shark, or harpoon a dolphin, as he played under the bows; a good deal of fun took place in overhauling the locker of the foremost fish, as the sailors call searching out what he has in his stomach. We found all sorts of odd things that had been dropped from the ship days before. I heard a story which is curious, and not unlikely. The narrator once sailed on board a ship, he said, in which there was a very near-sighted passenger who always wore a pair of gold spectacles. He had forgotten to provide himself with a second pair before he left, and being a man of nervous temperament, he was perpetually worrying himself with the idea that, by some accident or other, he should lose the only ones he had during the voyage, and thus be left for some time in a most unpleasing predicament, not being able to see a yard before him without the assistance of glasses. Many and dire were the accidents which he was sure would happen to him in the state of semi-blindness to which he would be reduced when the barnacles were gone. In fact, he would be afraid to venture on deck, being certain to walk overboard, or fall down the companion-ladder; and how he should ever get into the boat which was to take him on shore, when the ship arrived at her destination, he knew not. One day they were becalmed near the line, and a large shark was seen by the officer on watch just under the stern. All the passengers, our near-sighted friend among

them, rushed aft to see the monster taken, a baited hook having been immediately put over-board. In the scuffle which took place, every one striving to get a good position, down dropped the spectacles from his nose; the shark seized the glittering prize, and, as if satisfied with his acquisition, retired under the counter, refusing the most tempting baits that were offered him during the day. Towards evening a breeze sprung up, and away they went at nine or ten knots an hour. The nervous man was now in the situation which his morbid fancy had so often presented to him; and the first part of his presentiment having come to pass, he felt like a doomed man, and seemed to await the fulfilment of his destiny, which, he had persuaded himself, was either to break his neck, or be drowned. He locked himself up in his cabin, became moody and reserved, and busied himself with arranging his papers, and making various preparations for his end. The captain and others became seriously alarmed, and attempted to rally him from his monomania, but all to no purpose; he shook his head mournfully when they attempted to laugh him out of it, and solemnly made answer, that time would show that he was a doomed man. The wind about the line seldom lasts long, and after five or six days' fair sailing, during which they ran eight or nine hundred miles, the favourable breeze died away, the heavy sails again idly flapped against the masts, and again the usual listlessness which attends a perfect calm at sea crept over the minds of every one on board. One of the midshipmen, who had gone aloft to see if he could descry a sail or anything

else on the vast expanse of water, on which they lay like a log, sang out, that a shark was close to the vessel. Again everybody was on the *qui vive*, a hook was soon baited and thrown over, and this time greedily snatched at by John Shark. He was soon hauled on board, and the business of searching his locker commenced with the usual curiosity. The first thing they pulled out were the gold spectacles! They were speedily taken down to the hypochondriac below, and the change which the sight of them made on him was miraculous. He felt, he said, just what a man would, who, with the rope already round his neck, is reprieved at the gallows' foot, and at once shaking off the fit of despondency and apprehension which had clung so closely to him, he joined heartily in the laugh which his former fears now raised among his fellow-voyagers. In a shark which we caught, we found a newspaper of later date than any we had on board, and which was dried and read by all of us, not having been at all injured.—*Greenwood's Campaign in Affghanistan.*

VISIT TO A MANDARIN.

A correspondent of the Athenæm gives the following interesting details relative to the Chinese.

I went, in company with the Rev. Mr Beal and Capt. Hall, to pay our respects to one of the principal mandarins, and to see his house and gardens. His residence is in the suburbs of the town, on the

side of a rocky hill, close to the beach. When we entered the court of the place, we were received by a number of officers of lower rank than himself, and conducted to a kind of office, where, after politely asking us to sit down, they offered us their pipes to smoke, and snuff-boxes, or, rather, vials of glass and stone, containing something like Scotch snuff, and rather agreeable. There were two couches or beds in the room, on one of which I observed a small lamp burning, and an opium pipe lying by its side, by which I conjectured that we had disturbed an opium smoker in the midst of his enjoyment. Tea was immediately set before us, as is the custom in this country, but it was very indifferent, and as Mr Beal informed us that we would get much better when we were introduced to the principal, we only tasted it to please our good friends. In a few minutes the mandarin himself came to conduct us into more splendid apartments, into which we followed him. It was a large airy room into which we were led, one side fitted up with fine carved cases, in the centre of which stood a time-piece, and some fine jars filled with flowers. I here had an opportunity of seeing the great veneration with which the Chinese regard anything that is old. One of those pieces of porcelain, we were informed, had been in his family for five hundred years, and had the peculiar property of preserving flowers or fruits from decay for a lengthened period! He seemed to prize it much on account of its age, and handled it with a kind of veneration. The other side of the room was elevated a little, and fitted up for the "sing song," or theatricals, of

which the Chinese, from the highest to the lowest in rank, are particularly fond. Tea was soon brought in, in a teapot, in the European fashion, and not in the manner usual amongst the Chinese, for the custom with them is first to put the tea into the cup, and then to pour the water over it, the visitor drinking the tea and leaving the leaves in the bottom of the cup—an admirable mode for such as the Aberdeen gentleman, who, some years since, when coffee was not so common as it is now, complained that "his landlady did not give him the thick as well as the thin." Sugar is never used by the Chinese amongst their tea.

The mandarin, after making various inquiries about us—what our names were, what our occupations were, how long we had been from home, and more particularly how old we were, then inspected our clothes, the coloured waistcoats apparently gratifying him very much—he asked us to walk out and see the grounds around the mansion. The house—as I stated before—stands near the base of a hill, and the garden lies behind; the whole is really pretty; the large banyan-tree overhanging the walks, and the rude and rugged rocks forming caves and shades from the sun. A very fine spring issues from the hill side, from beneath a rock which the proprietor praised very much, and of which we all drank heartily, to please him; but really such a spring, in a place like this, is invaluable. A telescope was brought to us, which he evidently considered a great curiosity. He placed it upon a large stone table, carefully adjusting it to the desired view, and then asked us to

look through it; but we were not accustomed to use the instrument in that way, and took it up in our hands, in the usual manner. He seemed surprised that we could see through it this way. After showing us all the curiosities in the garden, we returned into the house, when tea was again set before us, with the addition of six or seven kinds of cake, which, however good it may be considered by the Chinese, I must confess I did not like (I have since tasted excellent buns and short cake in Chusan and Shanghae). After some further conversation, we withdrew, the mandarin inviting us to renew our visit as often as we could. It was now dark, and we were lighted to the river with torches, followed, as usual, by some hundreds of the Chinese, who were all respectful and civil. Indeed, we are always honoured with a body-guard of this description wherever we go.

CHINESE MODE OF ARTIFICIAL DUCK HATCHING.

One of the greatest Lions in Chusan (for we have Lions here as well as you in London) is an old Chinaman, who hatches duck eggs in thousands every spring, by artificial heat. One of the establishments—for there are more than one—is situated in the valley on the north side of the city of Tinghai, and is much resorted to by the officers of the troops and strangers who visit the island. The first questions put to a sight-seeing stranger who comes here is, whether he has seen the hatching process, and if he has not, he is immediately taken out to see the old Chinaman and his ducks. An account of the house

and the process will probably interest you, and I therefore send you a leaf of my private journal, which I wrote on the morning of my first visit.

It was a beautiful morning in the end of May, just such a morning as we have in the same month in England, perhaps a little warmer; the sun was upon the grass, the breeze was cool and refreshing, and altogether the effect produced upon the system was of the most invigorating kind, and I suppose I felt it more having just arrived from Hong-Kong, and suffering slightly from the unhealthy atmosphere of that island. The mist and vapour was rolling lazily along the sides of the hills which surround the plain on which the city of Tinghai is built; the Chinese, who are generally early risers, were already proceeding to their daily labours, and although the greater part of the labouring population are very poor, yet they seem contented and happy. Walking through the city, out at the north gate, and leaving the ramparts behind, I passed through some rice fields, the first crop of which is just planted, and a five minutes walk brought me to the poor man's cottage. He received me with Chinese politeness; asked me to sit down; offered me tea and his pipe, two things always at hand in a Chinese house, and perfectly indispensable. Having civilly declined his offer, I asked permission to examine his hatching house, to which he immediately led the way, and gave me the following account of the process. First, however, let me describe the house.

The Chinese cottages generally are wretched buildings of mud and stone, with damp earthen floors,

scarcely fit for cattle to sleep in, and remind one of what the Scottish cottages were a few years ago, which now however are happily among the things that were. The present one was no exception to the general rule: bad fitting, loose, creaking doors, paper windows, dirty and torn; ducks, geese, fowls, dogs, and pigs in the house and at the doors, seemingly as important, and having equal rights, with their masters; then there were children, grandchildren, and, for aught, that I know, great-grandchildren, all together, forming a most motely group, which, with their shaved heads, long tails, and strange costume, would be a capital subject for the pencil of Cruikshank or H. B.

The hatching-house is built at the side of the cottage, and in a kind of long shed, with mud walls, and thickly-thatched with straw. Along the ends and down one side of the building are a number of round straw baskets, well plastered with mud, to prevent them from taking fire In the bottom of each basket there is a tile placed, or rather that the tile forms the bottom of the basket; upon this the fire acts,—a small fire-place being below each basket. The top is open, having, of course, a straw cover, which fits closely, and which covers the eggs when the process is going on, the whole having the appearance of a vase which we sometimes see placed upon a pedestal at home, or rather, exactly like the Chinese manure tanks, which perhaps are less known. In the centre of the shed, there are a number of large shelves placed one above another, upon which the eggs are laid at a certain stage of the process.

When the eggs are brought, they are put into the baskets described above, the fire is lighted below, and according to some observations made with a thermometer, the heat kept up, seeming to range from 95° to 102°, but the Chinamen regulate the heat by their own feelings, and not by thermometer, and therefore it will of course vary considerably. In four or five days after the eggs have been subject to this temperature, they are taken carefully out, one by one, to a door, in which a number of holes have been bored exactly the size of the eggs; they are then held in these holes, and the Chinamen look through to the light, and are able to tell whether they are good or not. If good, they are taken back, and replaced in their former quarters; if bad, they are of course excluded. In nine or ten days after this, that is, about fourteen days from the commencement, the eggs are taken out of the baskets, and spread out on the shelves, which I have already noticed. Here no fire-heat is applied, but they are covered over with cotton, and a kind of blanket, remaining in these circumstances about fourteen days more, when the young ducks burst their shells, and the poor Chinaman's shed teems with life. These shelves are large, and capable of holding many thousands of eggs; and it is really a curious sight, particularly during the two last days, when the hatching takes place. The Chinese who rear the young ducks in the surrounding country know exactly the day when they will be ready for removal, and in two days after the shell is burst, the whole of these little creatures are sold, and conveyed to their new quarters.

Since writing the above, I have frequently called upon the old Chinaman, in going or returning from my excursions to the hills, and have therefore had frequent opportunities of examining his establishment, which is a rich treat for the stranger who visits Chusan.

THE ELEPHANT IN INDIA.

In the neighbourhood of Sumalka, a town not far from Delhi, lying amongst ancient and beautiful tamarind trees, fig trees, and acacias, is the encampment of our one hundred and twenty elephants. To this place I frequently and gladly go for the purpose of watching this sagacious beast. By reason of the persecution it has endured from man, either merely for the pleasures of the chase, or that when tamed it might increase the splendour of state, or serve as a beast of burden, and render assistance in battle, the elephant has nearly disappeared from the interior of India, and is found wild only in the less elevated portion of the Himalayan chain; namely, in the forests of Dshemna, Nepaul, some parts of the Ghauts, Tarrai, the kingdom of Ava, and Ceylon. On the upper Indus, near Attock, where Alexander the Great had his first elephant hunt, in the Punjab, and on the banks of the Jumna, not far from Kalpy, where the Emperor Baber was annually accustomed to enjoy the chase, and capture many of these animals, there is not now a trace of this noble beast to

be found. Although this hand-endowed animal was used in the earliest times as an instrument of war, and it was known how to render it an obedient servant, it has never yet been possible to domesticate it so as to render it productive after being tamed. Individual instances have certainly occurred where tame elephants have produced young, and I myself saw a ten months old animal belonging to a rajah, which had been born under these circumstances. Whether they are afraid that a degenerated species would be the consequence, or whether the need of a complete domestication has never been experienced, and they are content with reclaiming each individual, I am not able to say.

I experienced a singular feeling of novelty and excitement the first time of riding upon this creature. There is first placed upon its back a cushion thickly stuffed with hair, for this is the tenderest part of the elephant, and the greatest care of the attendant is to guard against all injury at this place, the more especially as wounds are difficult to heal. Over this cushion there is thrown a long hanging cloth, red and embroidered with gold, upon which the houdah rests, fastened with cords and girths. The houdah is made to contain two persons and their servant. The mahoud sits upon the neck behind the creature's ears, guiding it with an iron fork, one prong of which is curved out, whilst a man runs alongside with a large staff, and hastens its advance by blows or cries. A ladder hanging at one side completes the appointments. When it is desired to mount the elephant, the mahoud cries *beit*, *beit*, that is, lie down, where-

upon the animal kneels down, the ladder is ascended, and the rider takes his seat. The gait of the animal of course regulates the motion of its rider; sometimes it is pleasant, sometimes fatiguing. Its pace when urged onward is so quick that a horseman must trot to keep by its side; but he soon slackens his speed, and it is not without difficulty that he accomplishes twenty-four miles a day. To cool himself, or to remove dust, he now and then sprinkles himself with water drawn up into his trunk. An ordinary elephant costs 1000 rupees (£100), and his keep forty rupees a month.

In its wild state the elephant attains an age of upwards of two hundred years; but when tamed, not much more than one hundred and twenty. Its size is various; those of Ceylon and Tarra are small, and seldom have tusks. A hunter of great experience told me that in Ceylon scarcely two in a hundred have tusks. As soon as an elephant thus armed is caught, the greater portion of his tusks is sawn off, and the extremities of what remains are encased in gold or silver. The largest animals that came under my observation belonged to the governor-general, the maha-rajah of Lahore, the king of Oude, and the rajahs of Bhurtpoor and Alwar, and these were about eleven feet high. They were also more agile, and of greater endurance and sagacity than is usual. Such an animal would cost about 5000 rupees, whilst one of seven feet high can be bought for 1000. The ordinary elephant, having five times the strength of the camel, is employed in the army to bear not only the chief persons and the sick, but also the tents and furniture.

It can likewise be quite as serviceably employed as a draught-beast, since it can pull with the greatest ease what ten horses have scarcely power to move. The English have, in consequence, recently yoked it to their artillery-carriages with the best result. On the other hand, it is very difficult to induce the elephant to cross a river, for when he enters it is not easy to guide him in the proper direction, and he sinks so low that only the tip of his proboscis, which he lifts on such an occasion as high as possible, is visible. If he has to cross a bridge of boats, or a piece of fenny land, he ascertains the safety of his path by means of his trunk, and before he sets his foot down, he tests the strength of the support. To testify his pleasure, he lifts his trunk perpendicularly upwards; and his mahoud teaches him to raise his trunk and fall on his knees when he comes into the presence of a great man. In tiger-hunting the elephant is especially useful, not only for carriage but for defence. The chase takes place in the thick overgrown jungles, where it would be impossible for horsemen and persons on foot to penetrate through bushes and reeds sixteen feet high, and over swampy ground. The months of April and May are most favourable for hunting, because then the tiger seeks his food more daringly, approaching the abodes of men for the purpose of carrying off the cattle, and thus he is more easy to be met with. Each sportsman takes two rifles of a stronger make in his houdah, and the gunner takes the place of the servant. A large party is usually made up for a tiger-hunt, and the elephants are carefully selected with reference to previous

experience and efficiency. As soon as the tiger is tracked to his lair, he endeavours to slink away, but he stands to his defence the moment a shot touches him; and when wounded,, he sends out a terrific roar, showing at the same time his teeth. Everything depends at this period of the tumult upon the elephant not turning his back on his antagonist. Most elephants show great skill in defending themselves with their trunk, so as to give the sportsman time to lodge another ball. The elephant manifests great delight when the tiger is killed, and experienced hunters have assured me that he becomes bolder and more active with his victories. When the hunter quits his elephant, and leaves him to contend with the tiger alone, it is difficult to make him useful afterwards. As soon as the elephant is freed from his burden, a stake is driven into the earth to which a forefoot is fastened by a chain. Upon occasions of festivity, the mahoud take much pains to paint his head and trunk with arabesque designs in white, red, yellow, or blue. They bestow great attention on the animal confided to their care. A mahoud never curtails an elephant of its food, or leaves him entirely without support. The tent in which he, his wife, and children are lodged, is placed near the elephant, so that the animal almost lives with them. While the mahoud cooks a cake of kascaded flour upon an iron plate, his charge stands patiently by until the cake is cool, and then he receives his sustenance out of the hands of the family. The elephant is passionately fond of the sugar-cane. One of the beasts which were fed to-day upon canes, quite lost all pa-

tience when he saw his neighbours munching their favourite viand, himself apparently having been forgotten. Just as a rough boy stamps with his foot if his wishes are not complied with, this elephant angrily struck the earth with his trunk, but the moment his food was brought he was quiet. He is fond of throwing leaves and bits of earth upon his back, and in idle hours this is a never-failing resource. Still more does he delight in turning himself over in the water. When his keeper cleans him, he patiently kneels down, or places himself on his side.

So full of reason are his actions, that he serves the Indians as the symbol of the highest knowledge; Ganesa, the god of art and science, being represented with an elephant's head. More especially is this animal honoured by the Hindoos, who make it the companion of the gods, the warder of the porch of the temple, the caryatide and ornament of their architecture. They believe that the souls of princes and Brahmins do penance in the bodies of elephants, and a Hindoo of low caste may hold one of them to be higher than himself. A bride, according to the law of Menu, should have the graceful gait of a flamingo, or of a young elephant; and therefore at this day the princes and princesses of the ancient Hindoo dynasties are taught the step of an elephant. When the rajah of Bickaneer came to visit Lord Ellenborough, he entered the tent with a heavy tread, conformably to the instruction he had received in this branch of Indian etiquette.

For purposes of splendour the elephant plays an important part in the immense retinues of great per-

sons in India. When Sir Jasper Nicholls, the commander-in-chief during the late war, arrived at the camp at Ferozpoor, eighty elephants swelled his train. He had in addition three hundred camels, and one hundred and thirty-six draught-oxen. Above a thousand servants were present merely for Sir Jasper's personal service, and to attend to the animals. When the governor-general made his entry, he brought along with him one hundred and thirty elephants and seven hundred camels.—*Von Orlich's Travels in India.*

HERRING-FISHING IN THE MORAY FIRTH.

From an interesting paper in the second Number of the North British Review, contributed by Mr Hugh Miller.

The peculiar demands of the herring fishery, when the season has once fairly begun, draw largely on the fishermen's ingenuity. There are crews, the average of whose fishings, taken for a series of years, nearly double the average of others; and we know no other way of accounting for the fact, than that native shrewdness and superior knowledge, finding exercise in this branch of industry, assert their proper superiority. As the spawning season comes on, the herrings, scattered over a large extent of deep sea, muster into bodies, which increase in size as they approach their breeding haunts in the neighbourhood of the shore. But they journey in no determinate track; the localities in which many hundred barrels

are taken in the early part of one season, may be vainly tried for them in the ensuing one. Much, too, depends on the weather; if calms, or light winds from the shore prevail, the shoals continue to advance, and spawn, in some cases, scarce a quarter of a mile from the beach; but a severe storm from the sea breaks up their array, and sends them off in a single night to disemburben themselves in deep water. There are, however, certain spawning banks, of limited extent, and of intermediate distance from the coast—like the bank of Guilliam in the Moray Firth—which are oftener visited by the fish than either the deep sea or the littoral banks; and it is all-important to the fishermen to be intimately acquainted with these. On the bank of Guilliam, though not much more than a mile and a half in length by about half a mile in breadth, a thousand barrels of herring have been caught in one day, and several thousand barrels in the course of a week; and yet so closely do the immense shoals squat upon the bank—a hard-bottomed ridge covered with sea-weed, and flanked on the one side by a depressed sandy plain, and on the other by a deep muddy hollow—that only a hundred yards beyond its outer edge not a single herring may be caught. Hence the great importance of being acquainted with the exact bearings of such banks, and of the various currents, as they change at all hours of the tide, that sweep over them. The skilful fisherman must be acquainted with the many external signs that indicate the place of the fish during the earlier part of the fishing season, while their track is yet indeterminate and capricious, and able at a later stage

nicely to determine the true position of their more fixed haunts. A perfect knowledge of a large track of firth or open sea is required—its different soundings, currents, landmarks, varieties of bottom. He must have attained, too, an ability of calculation, independent of figures, for determining the exact point whence his boat will drift over a certain extent of bank at certain hours of the tide, whether neap or stream; above all, he must possess readiness of resource, and presence of mind. But the narrative of a single night's fishing on the bank of Guilliam may bring out with more force and distinctness the demands of the profession on the mind of the fisherman than any general detail.

The fishing was evidently drawing to its close, for the fish, though numerous as ever, were getting lank and spent, and the water on the fishing banks was darkened with spawn, when we set out one evening, many years ago, in a large herring boat, from the northern side of the Moray Firth, to ply for herrings on the bank of Guilliam. A low breeze from the west scarcely ruffled the surface of the water, which, streaked and mottled in every direction by unequal strips and patches of a dead calmness, caught the light so variously, that it seemed an immense plain of irregular chequer-work. All along the northern shore, where the fishing villages lie thick, there were sails starting up and shooting out from under the shadow of the high precipitous land, into the deep red light which the sun, fast hastening to his setting, threw athwart the firth.

The tide, before we left the shore, had risen high

on the beach, and was now beginning to recede; we could see it eddying down the firth around the oars with which we were assisting the half-filled sail; and so directing our course a full half mile to the south and west, whence the course of the current bade fair to drift us directly over the bank, we cleared the space be-aft the mainmast, and began to cast out our drift of nets, slowly propelling our boat meanwhile across the tide by the action of two oars. Our oldest and worst nets, as those farthest from the boat are always in most danger, were first cast out. Sinkers of stone were attached to the loops of the ground-baulk or hem; and as each net was tied fast to the net that preceded it, and thrown over, a buoy of inflated skin, fixed to a length of cord, was fastened at the joinings between them. The nets, kept in a vertical position by the line of corks above, and the line of stones below, sunk immediately as thrown over; but the buoys, from their length of attaching line, reached, and barely reached, the surface, thus serving with the corks to keep the drift erect. They soon stretched astern in a long irregular line of from six to eight hundred yards. The last net in the series we fastened to a small halser attached to the stem; and our boat swinging round by the bows, rode to the drift, as if at anchor. Boat after boat, as it reached the ground, struck sail, each one to the south and west of the boat previously arrived, and in accordance with the estimate formed by the crew from the soundings, or from the fast disappearing landmarks, of the exact position of the bank, here a few hundred yards astern, there a few hundred yards

ahead. The fleet closed round us as we drifted on; the eddying and unequal currents rendered our long line of buoys more and more irregular—here sweeping it forward in sudden curves, there bending it backwards. As the buoys of the neighbouring boats took similar forms, in obedience to similar impulses, the fishermen were all anxiety, lest, as not unfrequently happens, the nets should become massed in one inextricable coil. But we escaped the danger; and our boat drifted slowly on, accompanied by her fellows.

The night gradually darkened, the sky assumed a dead and leaden hue, as if surcharged with vapour—a dull grey mist roughened the outline of the distant hills, or in wide and frequent gaps blotted them from the landscape. The sea, roughened by the rising breeze, reflected the deeper hues of the sky with an intensity approaching to black—it seemed a dark uneven pavement, that absorbed every ray of the remaining light. A calm silvery patch, some fifteen or twenty yards in extent, and that resembled, from the light it caught, a bright opening in a dark sky, came moving slowly through the black. It seemed merely a patch of water coated with oil; but, obedient to some other moving power than that of either the tide or the wind, it sailed aslant our line of buoys a stone-cast from our bows—lengthened itself along the line to thrice its former extent—paused as if for a moment—and then three of the buoys, after momentarily erecting themselves with a sudden jerk on their narrower base, slowly sank. "One, two, three buoys," exclaimed one of the fishermen, reckoning them a

they disappeared; "*there* are ten barrels for us secure." A few minutes were suffered to elapse, and then unfixing the halser from the stem, and bringing it aft to the stern, we commenced hauling. The nets approached the gunwale. The first three appeared, from the phosphoric light of the water, as if bursting into flames of a pale-green colour. Here and there a herring glittered bright in the meshes, or went darting away through the pitchy darkness, visible for a moment by its own light. The fourth net was brighter than any of the others, and glittered through the waves while it was yet several fathoms away; the pale-green seemed as if mingled with broken sheets of snow, that, flickering amid the mass of light, appeared, with every tug given by the fishermen, to shift, dissipate, and again form; and there streamed from it into the surrounding gloom myriads of green rays, an instant seen, and then lost—the retreating fish that had avoided the meshes, but had lingered, until disturbed, beside their entangled companions. It contained a considerable body of herrings. As we raised them over the gunwale they felt warm to the hand, for in the middle of a large shoal even the temperature of the water is raised—a fact well known to every herring-fisherman; and in shaking them out of the meshes, the ear became sensible of a shrill chirping sound like that of the mouse, but much fainter, a ceaseless cheep, cheep, cheep, occasioned apparently —for no true fish is furnished with organs of sound —by a sudden escape from the air-bladder. The shoal, a small one, had spread over only three of the nets—the three whose buoys had so suddenly disap-

peared; and most of the others had but their mere sprinkling of fish, some dozen or two in a net; but so thickly had they lain in the fortunate three, that the entire haul consisted of rather more than twelve barrels.

Creeping out laterally from amid the crowd of boats, we reached, after many windings, the edge of the bank, and rowing against the tide, arrived, as nearly as we could guess in the darkness, at the spot where we had at first flung out our nets. The various landmarks, and even the Guilliam fleet, were no longer visible, and so we had to grope out our position by taking the depth of the water. In the deep muddy ravine on one side the bank we would have found thirty fathoms, and over the depressed sandy plain on the other from twelve to fifteen; but on the bank itself the depth rarely exceeds ten. We sounded once and again, and pulling across the still ebbing tide, shot our nets as before. We then folded down the mainsail, which had been rolled up in clearing the space for shaking loose our herrings from the meshes, and ensconcing ourselves in its folds—for the sail forms the fisherman's hammock—composed ourselves to sleep. There was no appearance of fish, or no neighbouring boats to endanger our drift by shooting their nets athwart our line. But the sleep of the herring-fisherman must much resemble that of the watchdog. We started up about midnight, and saw an open sea as before; but the scene had considerably changed since we had lain down. The breeze had died into a calm; the heavens, no longer dark and grey, were glowing with stars, and the sea, from the smoothness of the surface, appeared a second sky,

as bright and starry as the other; with this difference, however, that all its stars appeared comets: the slightly tremulous motion of the surface elongated the reflected images, and gave to each its tail. An incident of no unfrequent occurrence on the fishing banks convinced us, that though the sky of stars rose above, and the sky of comets spread below, we had not yet left the world. A crew of south-country fishermen had shot their nets in the darkness right across those of another boat, and in disentangling them, a quarrel ensued. The kind of clamour, so characteristic of a fisherman's squabble, rose high in the calm; a hundred tongues seemed busy at once; now one boat took up the controversy, now another; there were threats, loud or low, in proportion to the distance, denunciations on all sides by the relatives of the aggrieved crew against the southland men, with now and then an intermingling shout from the strangers, half in defiance, half in triumph, as net after net swung free. At length the whole were disentangled, and the roar of altercation gradually sunk into a silence as dead as that which had preceded it.

We awoke about an hour before sunrise. A low bank of fog lay thick on the water, bounding the view on every side, while the central firmament remained clear and blue overhead. The nearer boats seemed through the mist huge misshapen galliots manned by giants. We again commenced hauling our nets, but the meshes were all brown and open as when we had cast them out; we raised to the surface vast numbers of that curious zoophyte, the sea-pen—our recent type of one of the most ancient of

Scottish fossils, the graptolite—with several hundred dark-coloured slim star-fish, that in bending their thin brittle rays when brought out of the water, just as if they were trying to cast a knot upon them, snapped them across; but our entire draught of fish consisted of but a young rock-cod and a half-starved whiting. We had miscalculated, in the darkness, our proper place on the bank, and instead of sweeping over Guilliam, had swept over the muddy hollow beside it; and so not a single herring had we caught, though the herrings lay by millions scarce half a mile away. It was now an hour of flood; and the tides that had been so long bearing us down the firth had begun to well around our stern in minute eddies, and to float us up. It had become necessary, therefore, to take our place to the north and east of the fishing-bank, as we had previously done to the south and west of it. The fog hid the various landmarks as thoroughly as the darkness had hid them before; and we had again to determine our position from the depth of the water. The boats around us were busy in hauling their nets; and as each boat drew in its drift, the oars were manned and the sounding-lead plied, and she took up her place on what the crew deemed the north-eastern edge of the bank. But the various positions chosen as the right ones, showed us that the matter left much room for diversity of opinion—the fleet, dimly seen in the fog, were widely scattered. "Yonder goes Aldie," said our steersman, pointing to the boat of a veteran fisher of great skill, whose crew had been more successful in their fishings for a series of years than any other in their village; "let

us see where *he* shoots." Aldie went leisurely sounding across the bank, and then returning half way on his course, began to cast out his drift. We took up our position a little beyond him in the line of the tide, and shot in the same parallel; and in a few minutes more a full score of boats were similarly employed beside us, all evidently taking mark by Aldie. As the sun rose, the mist began to dissipate, and we caught a glimpse of the northern land, and of two of our best known landmarks. A blue conical hillock in the interior, that seems projected on the southern side of the base of Benweavis, rose directly behind a conspicuous building that occupies a rising ground on the coast, and a three-topped eminence in Easter Ross seemed standing out of the centre of a narrow ravine that opens to the sea near the village of Shandwick. In taking old Aldie for our guide, we were drifting as exactly over the fishing-bank as if we had chosen our position, after consulting all the various landmarks through which its place is usually determined.

It was still a dead calm—calm to blackness; when in about an hour after sunrise, what seemed light fitful airs began to play on the surface, imparting to it, in irregular patches, a tint of grey. First, one patch would form, then a second beside it, then a third, and then for miles around the surface, else so silvery, would seem frosted over with gray; the apparent breeze appeared as if propagating itself from one central point. In a few seconds after, all would be calm as at first, and then, from some other centre, the patches of grey would again form and widen till the

whole Firth seemed covered by them. A peculiar poppling noise, as if a thunder-shower was beating the surface with its multitudinous drops, rose around our boat; the water seemed sprinkled with an infinity of points of silver, that for an instant glittered to the sun, and then resigned their places to other quick glancing points, that in turn were succeeded by others. The herrings by millions and thousands of millions were at play around us—leaping a few inches into the air, and then falling and disappearing to rise and leap again. Shoal rose beyond shoal, till the whole bank of Guilliam seemed beaten into foam, and the low poppling sounds were multiplied into a roar, like that of the wind through some tall wood, that might be heard in the calm for miles. And again, the shoals extending around us seemed to cover for hundreds of square miles the vast Moray Firth. But though they played round our buoys by millions, not a herring swam so low as the upper baulk of our drift. One of the fishermen took up a stone, and flinging it right over our second buoy into the middle of the shoal, the fish disappeared from the surface for several fathoms around. "Ah, there they go," he exclaimed, "if they go but low enough. Four years ago I startled thirty barrels of light fish into my drift just by throwing a stone among them." We know not what effect the stone might have had on this occasion, but in hauling our nets for the third and last time, we found we had captured about eight barrels of fish; and then hoisting sail, for a light breeze from the east had sprung up, we made for the shore with a cargo of twenty barrels. The entire take of

the fleet next evening did not amount to half that number—the singularly imposing scene of the morning had indicated too surely that the shoals had spawned; for the fish, when sick and weighty, never play on the surface; and before night, they had swam far down the firth on their return to their deep water haunts, leaving behind them but a few lean stragglers.

THE FAIR AT TAMBOFF.

FROM Mr Venable's Travels in Russia we select the following pleasant scenes:—

THE fair is not held in the town for fear of fire, but on an extensive steppe or down, about three quarters of a mile off. On this down a perfect village was erected of wooden booths, in which shops were opened for the sale of all kinds of goods, especially every article necessary for winter clothing, which was at the time exceedingly attractive, as we had a hard frost during the whole week. There were several fur shops very handsomely provided with skins of all kinds, and of all prices; bear, fox, sable, beaver, wolf, and a variety of others, of which I do not know the names. Russians sometimes go to an enormous expense in fur; but a handsome fox-skin, for a lady's cloak, may be had for about eight pounds, and a beaver collar, which is the handsomest, and most agreeable fur for the purpose, for a lady or gentleman, will cost from eight to twelve pounds. A bear-skin pelisse, which is only fit for wearing in a sledge,

or in travelling, costs about thirty pounds. There were also Tartar merchants, with shaven heads and skull-caps, who sold shawls, dressing-gowns, slippers, and all kinds of eastern manufactures; while close by them were drapers, silk-mercers, and all the tradesmen requisite to furnish a lady's toilet, with goods home-made, or imported from England or France. The shopkeepers were all wrapped up in furs, for the booths were bitterly cold. Who should expect at a country fair, to find church bells for sale! There were a number of all sizes, some being of a very considerable weight of metal. They were hung on wooden frames in an open space, so that a customer could easily ring them to judge of their tones. Whether many of these bells were sold, I cannot tell; but I was told that there was always a certain demand for them at the fair.

A number of fire-engines were stationed round the booths, to be useful not only in the event of fire, but as assistants to the police in keeping order; since, in case of a mob of drunken and disorderly people assembling at night, an engine playing into the midst of them speedily disperses the crowd. The horse-fair, altogether, presented a most curious scene; a large space of the steppe was thickly covered with tilègas, or little waggons, behind which the horses for sale were tied; and the strange figures of the people in their sheep-skin coats and fur caps, with their long beards, had anything but an European character. In one part of the fair were to be seen showy horses, covered with gaudy cloths, tied three or four together behind tilègas, and from time to time

creating a disturbance by kicking and fighting with their companions or neighbours. In another quarter were Tartars bargaining for miserable worn-out animals, such as in England may be seen awaiting their time in the paddock adjoining a kennel; but which the Tartar purchases as food, not for his dogs, but himself; for horse-flesh is the principal fare of these Russian Mahometans, who are tolerably numerous in this neighbourhood. In another part of the fair, again, were dealers from the Don, with large lots of Cossack and Bashkir horses. The Cossack horse is raw-boned and spare, carrying little flesh, and apparently not equal to any great weight; but he is better than he looks, is hardy, active, and enduring: he is little used for harness, for his master is a horseman bred and born. The Bashkir horse is short and punchy, with a thick neck, and a dull heavy head; but he will travel seventy miles without stopping or tiring. These animals, of both breeds, were chiefly wild unbroken colts, and were not haltered like the rest, and tied behind tilègas, but enclosed, twenty or thirty together, in pens surrounded by a strong railing. In each pen was a lad with a whip, who kept the horses moving slowly round and round.

It was curious to see the process of showing them to purchasers. When a customer fixed his eye on a horse, and wished to examine him and see his action, the dealer, with the help of a long stick, threw a noose over the horse's head, and pulled it tight round his throat. The bar which closed the pen was then let down, and the lad inside, keeping the other horses away from the opening, drove out the one which had

been selected. He, of course, on finding himself on the open plain, immediately tried to run away; his escape, however, was not to be effected, for his owner had a firm hand on the rope round his neck, and a vigorous pull tightened the noose, so as almost to strangle the horse. The assistant having closed the pen, now came to his master's aid; and having forced a bridle on the head of the poor frightened brute, boldly jumped on his back. The colt, of course, resented this new aggression, by rearing, kicking, plunging, and doing all in his power to rid himself of his unceremonious rider; the Cossack, however, held fast by the mane, clung tightly with his legs, and kept a firm seat. Presently he urged on the horse, his master still holding the rope round the animal's neck. After a minute or two, the colt became more tranquil; the end of the rope was given to the rider, and he was left to take care of himself. He immediately set off at full gallop across the steppe, and returned after a while at the same pace, pulling up with some difficulty when he reached the spot from which he had started.

A DAY'S SPORTING IN RUSSIA.

FINDING the rain had ceased, I got up, and before I was dressed, was told the master of the house was ready, and after a slight breakfast, we set out together. He was equipped in a great coat, with a spencer over it, and a red comforter round his neck; a pair of very loose black velveteen trousers, lined down the parts which press the saddle with black

leather like a dragoon's, and strong water-proof boots without spurs. A cloth cap completed his attire.

I was mounted on a rough unpromising-looking horse, which, however, belied his appearance, and proved to be in reality a good one. I found, indeed, that he was a Don Cossack, which breed of horses is famous for action and endurance, though coarse-looking and small. We had four picquers, and a fifth man, who was, I believe, a valet de chambre, and who was dressed somewhat differently. All these were mounted on small active horses of the same description as mine. Three of them wore short swords, and had horns slung over their shoulders. Two managed the greyhounds, and the other three hunted the hounds, for the sport was a combination of hunting and coursing; the object being that the hounds should find hares in the covert and drive them into the open ground to be coursed by the greyhounds. In this manner, they sometimes kill twenty in a day: they also kill foxes, and occasionally a wolf; the latter, however, is in general difficult to meet with. We threw off among some bushes flanking and connecting two small woods. The hounds were uncoupled amidst a din of whips cracking, horns blowing, and men hallooing; in short, all pains were apparently taken to excite the pack to the highest possible pitch of wildness, and certainly not without success. Away they went into cover, giving tongues like hounds who already wind a fox. "That is no hare," quietly remarked my companion, "it is only their joy at getting loose." The joy, however, was not easily subdued, and their cry continued, with little in-

terruption, to be heard through the woods for about half an hour, when it was asserted they had found a hare, although, as nobody had seen it, I was sceptical enough to doubt its existence. At last, a hare really made its appearance, and afforded a short course to the greyhounds, which it escaped by doubling back into the wood. Two men were always stationed outside the covers in favourable spots, each with two or three greyhounds; these dogs knew their business very well, and kept quietly in their proper places; each wore a collar with a ring, so that he could be led if necessary, the men having long leashes for the purpose; this, however, appeared to be seldom used, except for young dogs not properly broken in.

When the hare turned back into cover, the hounds were cheered on, and they took a ring through some rough ground: the hare was again driven from the wood, but the greyhounds did not catch sight of it, and in the end it was lost. My object, at first, was, if possible, to prevent the greyhounds seeing the hare, in order that we might have a hunt and a bit of a gallop; however, I soon discovered that when from the nature of the ground there was no chance of a course, the harriers either very soon were called off the scent, or threw up their heads of themselves. * * This which I have described is the universal style of what is called hunting by the Russians: they look upon hounds merely as instruments to find game for the greyhounds, upon whom they depend entirely for amusement.

Their pleasure consists in looking at a course, and

all that they require is a small active nag worth from five to ten or twelve pounds. Tame as this sport appears to our ideas, many Russians are extremely devoted to it; a gentleman whom I met the other day, told me that he had a neighbour who lived for nothing else but hare-hunting; he kept twelve hundred dogs (hounds and greyhounds), and killed annually, on an average, eighteen hundred hares. My informant calculates that this gentleman has got thrown into heaps the skeletons of about eighteen thousand horses. What a treasure, as manure, these bones would be to an English farmer!

TERRIFIC STORM IN THE ALPS.

Extracted from a Letter in the Athenæum, dated Aug. 25. 1844.

Campo Delino, on the Italian declivity of the Splugen.

I HAVE been obliged to take up my quarters, in this desolate station, in consequence of one of the most terrific storms that for years has desolated the Alpine passes. I got on very well along the Rhine, passed a day at Zurich, which I left last Friday, and reached the village of Splugen, at the Swiss base of the pass yesterday. On entering the valley, I was struck by a phenomenon which I had remarked in 1839, at Altorf, the day which preceded the storm that rendered the St Gothard so long intransitable—a gust of hot air coming over the peaks from the Italian side. Scarcely had we started, at two, from Splugen, when it began to rain violently, and continued until we got to the Austrian Dogana, where we

were most unnecessarily detained an hour, being only two passengers. We had scarcely left it, when it began to thunder terrifically, and the rain to descend, not in torrents, but in water-spouts. The storm was at its height when we reached the village of Pianozzo, and during the long zig-zag descent into the valley of the Lira, it presented a scene of grandeur impossible to describe—the lightning playing from peak to peak—every rill turned into a torrent—every hollow in the almost vertical face of the rocks on each side changed into a cascade, among which that of the Medesimo presented one of the finest spectacles of Alpine scenery ever beheld. We changed horses here, and had proceeded about a mile towards Chiavenna, when my attention was suddenly arrested by a prolonged sound, something between that of rolling thunder and the noise that accompanies an earthquake, when suddenly turning a corner, the torrent of the Gadera, which issues from an almost vertical ravine, and passes the road we had before us, under a bridge, was seen rolling down. Immense blocks of rock, more like a stone avalanche, had already filled up the arch, and covered the road with debris. It was now 7 P. M., night was fast setting in, and it only remained to turn the coach, and get back to this station. In such a steep road, which was also narrow, this required some time; when to our horror, and scarcely 100 yards behind us, another torrent, scarcely inferior in size to the Gadera, was seen rushing over the road, and thus intercepting our retreat, and, as it made the road its bed, threatening to carry the coach and horses, now at a standstill, into the torrent of the

Lira, some hundred feet beneath. I succeeded in getting under a large detached block of rock close by the roadside; but here another danger awaited me, the lightning had struck one of the pinnacles above, and detached a mass of rock, which produced in its fall an avalanche of stones, that in its descent, passed scarcely twenty-five yards from where I was. The noise of this avalanche was more terrific than I can find words to express. Thus obliged to change my quarters, luckily the torrential rain began to abate, and in about half an hour, the torrent that intercepted our retreat to Campo Doleino to diminish; but it had changed its direction, cutting straight across the road, on which it had raised a mound of debris, to cross which it required some nerve, as you will understand when I tell you, that the side of the road overlooking the valley of the Lira is lined with stone columns, between which are stretched wooden rails, to prevent vehicles falling over the precipice. The torrent, in running across the road, occupied the width of three intercolumnar spaces, about forty feet; and in its descent had carried away the lowermost of the wooden rails, and reached to the level at which they were placed—the upper rails were entire, and the only way to cross them was astride, wriggling one's-self over the best way I could, and which I did, my knees being in the mass of mud, and silt, and torrent rushing under me. Thank God, I effected this in safety; and after traversing half a dozen torrents which presented no danger, got here about 9 o'clock, severely bruised and cut. The storm having abated towards midnight, we got a part of our luggage from the

coach, and the rest has been brought back here; the coach is safe; but the road on each side of where it stands is either entirely carried away or covered with a moraine of stones. Up to this moment we are completely insulated, and have only been able to know the effects of the storm for about a mile on either side of this hamlet, in which extent two bridges have been carried away, and nearly one quarter of the road been rendered intransitable, so that at the moment I write, I have no idea when I shall be released from my imprisonment, although I hope I shall be able to proceed on foot to Chiavenna, in a couple of days; for as to carriages, weeks, if not months, will be required to effect such repairs of the road as will allow of their passing.

I never recollect, even within the tropics, to have witnessed such a storm as that of last night, and which is still raging with unabated fury. The thunder and lightning have been incessant, and the rain in torrents has not ceased an instant. You may recollect the position of this miserable hostelry—in a small plain on the left bank of the Lira torrent, and at the foot of a nearly vertical peak of transition slate, the little valley or campo of Doleino is surrounded on every side by precipices of the same rock, cut into ravines by torrents; these are generally empty, but at present every ravine is a cascade, and, looking out of the room from which I write, I have three before me. During the night, the effect of these cascades, lighted by the flashes of vivid lightning, was very grand—to which the peals of thunder, which shook the peaks around, gave a sensation of awe and terror.

I trust this storm will not have extended to the other passes of the Alps. When I crossed the Rhine, and before this rain, its bed was covered, so that its ravages are to be apprehended below Coire, and I should not be astonished to hear of its breaking the dykes about Ragatz and Sargans.

THE WHALERS OF NEW ZEALAND.

The following description of the Whalers of New Zealand, their town, and habits, and their mode of taking the whale, may not proved unacceptable to the reader. The volumes which furnish us with these details are entitled "Adventure in New Zealand, by E. J. Wakefield."

A NICE clear stream runs through the middle of the settlement. Some few of the whalers were dressed out in their clean Sunday clothes; but a large gang were busy at the *try-works*, boiling out the oil from the blubber of a whale lately caught. It appears that this is a process in which any delay is injurious. The *try-works* are large iron boilers, with furnaces beneath. Into these the blubber is put, being cut into lumps of about two feet square, and the oil is boiled out. The residue is called the *scrag*, and serves to feed the fire. The oil is then run into coolers, and finally into casks ready for shipping. The men were unshaven and uncombed, and their clothes covered with dirt and oil. Most of them were strong, muscular men; and they reminded me, as they stoked the furnaces, and stirred the boiling oil, of

Retzsch's grim imagination of the forge in the forest, in his outline illustrations of Schiller's ballad of Fridolin. An Australian aboriginal native was one of this greasy gang, and was spoken of as a good hand. The whole ground and beach about here was saturated with oil, and the stench of the carcasses and scraps of whale-flesh lying about in the bay was intolerable.

It is very remarkable there exists among the whalers a certain code of laws, handed down by tradition, and almost universally adhered to, relating to adverse claims to a whale. Each whaling-bay has its own law or custom; but they are generally very similar. It is recognized, for instance, that he who has once made fast has a right to the whale, even should he be obliged to cut his line, so long as his harpoon remains in her; and each harpooner knows his own weapon by some private mark. The boat making fast to the calf has a right to the cow, because she will never desert her young. A boat demanding assistance from the boat of a rival party shares equally with its assistant on receiving the required help. These and many other regulations are never written down, but are so well known that a dispute rarely arises, and, if so, is settled according to precedent by the oldest "headsman." The only instance I ever knew of going to law on the subject occurred in 1843, when a boat had seized a whale that drifted from her anchorage, and returned the harpoon remaining in her to its owner. The whale was nearly ten miles from the place where she was killed; but universal indignation was expressed against the man who insisted on appealing to a court of justice against the

"laws of the bay." The season for which the men engage themselves begins with the month of May, and lasts till the beginning of October, thus extending over five months, which include the winter. It is during this season that the female or cow whales resort to the coasts of New Zealand with their young calves; and this in such numbers during some years, that whaling ships were accustomed to anchor at *Kapiti*, Port Underwood, and the ports in Bank's Peninsula, and thus to carry on a fishery subject to less hardship than in the open seas. The men are enrolled under three denominations,—*headsman*, *boat-steerer*, and common-man. The *headsman* is, as his name implies, the commander of a boat; and his place is at the helm, except during the moment of killing the whale, which task falls to his lot. The *boat-steerer* pulls the oar nearest the bow of the boat, fastens to the whale with the harpoon, and takes his name from having to steer the boat under the headsman's directions, while the latter kills the whale. The common men have nothing to do but to ply their oars according to orders: except one, called the *tub-oarsman*, who sits next to the tub containing the whale-line, and has to see that no entanglement takes place. The wages are shares of the profits of the fishery, apportioned to the men according to their rank;—the headsman getting more shares than the boat-steerer, and the boat-steerer than the common man. The leader of the "party" commands one of the boats, is called the "chief headsman," and is said to "head" the party, as each headsman is said to "head" his own boat. The boat-steerer or harpooner

is likewise said to "steer" the boat to which he belongs, or, more frequently, its headsman. Thus, on meeting two whalers, and asking them their situation, one might answer, "I heads the Kangaroo," while the other would say, "and I steers Big George." Their whole language in fact is an *argot*, or slang, almost unintelligible to a stranger. All their principal characters enjoy distinctive appellations, like the heroes of the Iliad. Thus I know one of the chief headsmen who was never called any thing but "the old man." Another was called "Long Bob;" a third "Butcher Nott;" and a fourth, an American, "Horse Lewis," to distinguish him from his two brothers of the same name. I have already said that Joseph Toms, of *Te-awa-iti* and *Porirua*, never went by any other name than "Geordie Bolts." Another was only known as "Bill the Steward," "Flash Bill," "Gipsey Smith," and "Fat Jackson," "French Jim," "Bill the Cooper," and "Black Peter," may be allowed to conclude our selection from the titles of the whaling peerage.

A WHALE CHASE.

A WHALE is signalised from a hill near the bay. Three or four boats are quickly launched, and leave the ways at a racing pace; the boats of the rival stations are seen gathering towards the same point; and the occasional spout of the whale, looking like a small column of smoke on the horizon, indicates the direction to be taken. A great deal of stratagem and generalship is now shown by the different headsmen in

their manœuvres to be first alongside. The chase soon becomes animating; the last change has cut off a considerable angle described by the whale: her course and that of the boats almost cross each other, and the crisis seems approaching. The headsman urges his rowers to exertion, by encouraging descriptions of the animal's appearance. "There she breathes," shouts he, "and there goes the calf!" "Give way, my lads —sharp and strong 's the word—there she spouts again!—give way in the lull!—make her spin through it. George an't two boats' length ahead of us. Hurrah! Now she feels it—pull while the squall lasts! Pull! go along, my boys!" All this time he is helping the after oarsman by propelling his oar with the left hand, while he steers with the right. Each oar bends in a curve; the foam flies from her bows as a tide-ripple is passed; and both boats gain imperceptibly on the whale. "And there goes flakes!" continues the headsman, as the huge animal makes a bound half out of water, and shows its broad tail as it plunges again head first into the sea. "Send us alongside, my lads—now, give way, my hearties!—three or four strokes more, and she'll come up under our nose. Stand up, Bill!" The boat-steerer peaks his oar, places one leg in the round notch in the front of the boat, and poises the harpoon, with line attached, over his head.

A momentary pause is occasioned by the dissappearance of the whale, which at last rises close to the rival boat. Their boat-steerer, a young hand lately promoted, misses the whale with his harpoon, and is instantly knocked down by a water keg, flung full in

his face by his enraged headsman. Our original friend then manœuvres his boat steadily to the place where the whale will probably appear next. "Pull two, back three," shouts he, following a sudden turn in the whale's water; and, as she rises a few yards in front of the boat, he cries in rapid succession, "Look out!—all clear? Give it her!" and the harpoon flies true and straight into the black mass. This is called "making fast." "Peak your oars," says the headsman. The line whistles over the bow; a turn is taken round the loggerhead, to check the rapidity with which the line runs out; and the boat flies positively *through* the water, forming ridges of foam high above the sides. The men sit still with folded arms by their peaked oars, the boat-steerer with a small hatchet in his hand to cut the line, should any entanglement occur; and the after-oarsman occasionally pours water on the loggerhead, which smokes furiously. Now is shown the skill of the headsman in steering the boat at this tremendous speed, and in watching every motion of the frightened whale. Now he gives directions to haul in when the line slackens; now says, "Veer away again," as the fish takes a new start, and ever and anon terrifies the new hand, who can't tell what's going to happen, into a sort of resignation.

The whale rapidly takes the line—and the two hundred fathoms in the boat are nearly exhausted by the sudden determination to try the depth of water, technically called sounding; but another boat of the same party, which had "hove up," or peaked her oars, when the chase was resigned to the new comers

up in answer to a whiff hoisted by our boat, now fixes a new harpoon in the whale, as she rises to take breath. She soon becomes exhausted with her efforts, runs less rapidly, and rises more frequently to the surface; and the headsman at last foresees the lucky moment. "Come aft," he cries; and he and the boat-steerer change places. The boat ceases her progress, as the whale stops to rest. "Down oars—give way," are the orders given, in a sharp clear tone, and the crew, at least the old hands, know that he is nerved for his work by the decision apparent in his voice, and the way in which he balances the sharp, bright, oval pointed lance.

The whale seems to sleep on the surface; but she is slowly preparing for a move as the boat comes up. He follows her every movement—"A steady pull! Row dry, boys! Lay on! Pull two, back three! Lay on! Head of all! Lay me alongside!" and, as the whale slowly rolls one fin out of water, the lance flies a good foot into the spot where the "life" is supposed to be. The quick obedience to his instant order of "stern all, lay off," saves the boat from annihilation, as the whale swings round its huge tail out of water, and brings it down with a tremendous report. She then "breaches" or leaps, and plunges in every direction; the headsman continues to direct his crew and boat-steerer, while he points a new lance, and keeps just out of the vortex, formed by her evolutions; the assistant boat and a third one have come up and being all of one party, wheels outside the splashing for the best chance. One goes in, and having fixed a lance, receives a blow, which

smashes the boat and two men's legs; the third boat picks up the men; our first man at last gets steered into the vortex, gives a well aimed lance in the life, and retreats from the foam, which receives a roseate hue. The monster leaps out of the sea, flourishing her tail and fins, and strikes the water with a noise as loud as a cannon. She is now in her "flurry"—she is "spouting blood," and is a sure prize.

ASCENT OF MOUNT ARARAT.

It is well known that the summit of this mountain is supposed to have been the spot on which Noah's ark rested, after the waters of the deluge had subsided. A peculiar interest, accordingly, attaches to this mountain, and the following account of an ascent to the top of it, by Professor Parrot, may not be unaceptable to our readers. Dr Parrot is the first who succeeded in reaching the top of this celebrated mountain.

The impression which the sight of Ararat makes on every one whose mind is capable of comprehending the stupendous works of the Creator, is awful and mysterious, and many a sensitive and intelligent traveller has endeavoured, with glowing pen and skilful pencil, to describe this impression; and in the feeling that no description, no delineation, can come up to the sublime object before him, every one who has made such an attempt, must certainly have experienced how difficult it is to avoid, both in language and in sketching, every thing that is poetical in expression or exaggerated in form, and to keep strictly within the bounds of truth.

[Now follows the detailed account of his journey

to the top. He appears to have been in the service of Russia, whose armies in the last contest with Turkey; were, at this period, (1829), in possession of the surrounding country. After he and his party had failed in two attempts to ascend, the third proved successful.]

In the meantime, the sky cleared up, and the air became serene and calm, the mountain was more quiet, the noise occasioned by the falling of masses of ice and snow grew less frequent; in short everything seemed to indicate that a favourable turn was about to take place in the weather, and I hastened to embrace it, for a third attempt to ascend the mountain. On the 25th of September, I sent to ask Stephan whether he would join us, but he declined, saying, that he had suffered too much from the former excursion to venture again so soon; he, however, promised to send four stout peasants with three oxen and a driver. Early the next morning four peasants made their appearance at the camp, to join our expedition, and soon after a fifth, who offered himself voluntarily. To them I added two of our soldiers. The deacon again accompanied us, as well as Mr Hehn, who wished to explore the vegetation at a greater elevation, but he did not intend to proceed beyond the line of snow. The experience of the preceding attempt had convinced me that everything depended on our passing the first night, as closely as possible to this boundary, in order to be able to ascend and return from the summit in one day, and to confine our baggage to what was absolutely necessary. We therefore took with us only three oxen, laden

with the clothing, wood, and provisions. I also took a small cross, carved in oak. We chose our course towards the same side as before; and, in order to spare ourselves, Abowian and I rode on horseback, wherever the rocky nature of the soil permitted it, as far as the grassy plain Kip-Ghioll, whence we sent the horses back. Here Mr Hehn parted from us. It was scarcely twelve o'clock when we reached this point; and, after taking our breakfast, we proceeded in a direction rather more oblique than on our former attempt. The cattle were, however, unable to follow us so quickly. We, therefore, halted at some rocks, which it would be impossible for them to pass; took each our own share of clothing and wood, and sent back the oxen. At half-past five in the evening we were not far from the snow line, and considerably higher than the place where we passed the night on our previous excursion. The elevation of this point was 13,036 Paris feet above the level of the sea, and the large masses of rock determined me to take up our quarters here. A fire was soon made, and a warm supper prepared. I had some onion broth, a dish which I would recommend in preference to meat broth, as being extremely warm and invigorating. This being a fast day, poor Abowian was not able to enjoy it. The other Armenians, who strictly adhered to their rules of fasting, contented themselves with bread, and the brandy which I distributed among them in a limited quantity, as this cordial must be taken with great caution, especially where the strength has been previously much tried, as it otherwise produces a sense

of exhaustion and inclination to sleep. It was a magnificent evening; and with my eye fixed on the clear sky, and the lofty summit which projected against it, and then again on the dark night, which was gathering far below, and around me, I experienced all those delightful sensations of tranquillity, love, and devotion, that silent reminiscence of the past, that subdued glance into the future, which a traveller never fails to experience when on lofty elevations, and under pleasing circumstances. I laid myself down under an overhanging rock of lava, the temperature of the air at 4½°, which was tolerably warm, considering our great height.

At day-break we rose, and began our journey at half-past six. We crossed the last broken declivities in half an hour, and entered the boundary of eternal snow, nearly at the same place as in our preceding ascent. In consequence of the increased warmth of the weather, the new fallen snow, which had facilitated our progress on our previous ascent, had melted away, and again frozen, so that, in spite of the still inconsiderable slope, we were compelled to cut steps in the ice. This very much embarrassed our advance, and added greatly to our fatigue. One of the peasants had remained behind in our resting place, as he felt unwell. Two others became exhausted in ascending the side of the glacier. They at first lay down, but soon retreated to our quarters. Without being disheartened by those difficulties, we proceeded, and soon reached the great cleft which marks the upper edge of the declivity of the large glacier, and at ten o'clock we arrived at the great plain of snow which

marks the first break on the icy head of Ararat. At the distance of a verst we saw the cross which we had reared on the 19th of September, but it appeared to me so extremely small, probably on account of its black colour, that I almost doubted whether I should be able to find it again with an ordinary telescope from the plain of the Araxes. In the direction towards the summit, a shorter, but at the same time a steeper declivity than the one we had passed lay before us; and between this and the extreme summit, there appeared to be only one small hill. After a short repose we passed the first precipice, which was the steepest of all, by hewing out steps in the rock, and after this the next elevation. But here, instead of seeing the ultimate goal of all our difficulties, immediately before us appeared a series of hills, which even concealed the summit from our sight. This rather abated our courage, which had never yielded for a moment, so long as we had all our difficulties in view, and our strength, exhausted by the labour of hewing the rock, seemed scarcely commensurate with the attainment of the now invisible object of our wishes. But a review of what had been already accomplished, and of that which might still remain to be done, the proximity of the series of projecting elevations, and a glance at my brave companions, banished my fears, and we boldly advanced. We crossed two more hills, and the cold air of the summit blew towards us. I stepped from behind one of the glaciers, and the extreme cone of Ararat lay distinctly before my enraptured eyes. But one more effort was necessary. Only another icy plain was to be

ascended, and at a quarter past three, on the 27th of September O.S. 1829, we stood on the summit of Mount Ararat!

The Professor and his five companions, viz., the deacon, two Russian soldiers, and two Armenian peasants, having remained three quarters of an hour on the summit, commenced their descent, which was very fatiguing; but they hastened, as the sun was going down, and before they reached the place where the great cross was erected, it had already sunk below the horizon.

"It was a glorious sight" says the traveller, "to see the dark shadows which the mountains in the West cast upon the plain, and then the profound darkness which covered all the valleys, and gradually rose higher and higher on the sides of Ararat, whose icy summit was still illuminated by the beams of the setting sun. But the shadows soon passed over that also, and would have covered our path with a gloom that would have rendered our descent dangerous, had not the sacred lamp of night, opportunely rising above the Eastern horizon, cheered us with its welcome beams."

Having passed the night on the same spot as on their ascent, where they found their companions, they arrived the next day at noon at the convent of St James.

WINTER TRAVELLING IN CANADA.

When we started this morning (January 10), the light was just beginning to dawn, and we had a heavy day's work before us before we could arrive at any habitation; however, there was no remedy but to

push on with the rest. The guides to-day seemed particularly considerate, and, as if to give us every assistance, instead of driving recklessly on ahead, as they had been used to do, leaving us to follow as well as we could, and grumbling whenever they halted to collect the party, they now slackened their pace with great apparent good humour, and we all went on close together. However, we had not travelled more than half an hour before they proposed that we should all walk first by turns. And their object by this arrangement clearly was in case any of us should break in through the ice, to give us, with themselves, a fair chance of a preference. This was reasonable enough, and although they had undertaken to be our guides: we could make no objection so far to become theirs; and so it was settled that we were to exchange places every half hour. The labour was a good deal increased by being the first to break the way, and one thought of nothing else but being relieved from the task. The snow-shoe makes a large track, so that the second man has a surface to walk upon which has been pressed down by the first, who, of course, has by far the hardest work of all.

And so we fagged on, careless of consequences; for the depth of the snow upon the bed of the river made it quite impossible to pick our way. Our guides prescribed the course from point to point according to their notion of the safety of the ice, and the line being once determined on, we had only to advance straight forward, and trust altogether to good luck. Long circuitous paths became thus indispensable, and the danger of breaking in after all,

certainly was not trifling. In the meantime, we were progressing heavily and slowly, hardly saying a word to each other, except when, at the expiration of each half hour, it became necessary to change places with the leading man. And this was not all, for the clouds, which had been all morning unusually dark and lowering, seemed to bear strong indications of an approaching snow-storm. At this juncture, one of the party, a strong and apparently athletic young man, began to complain of lameness in his knee, which had swollen and had become very painful. Still, however, we went on, and it grew darker and darker, till a heavy fall of snow, driven by a powerful wind, came sweeping along the desert track directly in our teeth; so that, what with general fatigue, and the unaccustomed position of the body in the snow-shoes, I hardly could bear up and stand against it. The dreary howling of the tempest over the wide waste of snow rendered the scene still more desolate: and with the unmitigated prospect before us of cold and hunger, our party plodded on in sullen silence, each in his own mind well aware that it was utterly impracticable to reach that night the place of our destination.

But in spite of every obstacle, the strength of the two Canadians was astonishing; on they marched, drawing the tobogins after them with a firm indefatigable step; and we had all walked a little more than seven hours, when the snow-storm increased to such a pitch of violence, that it seemed impossible for any human creature to withstand it: it bade defiance even to their most extraordinary exertions.

The wind now blew a hurricane. We were unable to see each other at a greater distance than ten yards, and the drift gave an appearance to the surface of snow we were passing over, like that of an agitated sea. Wheeled round every now and then by the wind, we were enveloped in clouds so dense, that a strong sense of suffocation was absolutely produced. We all halted: the Canadians admitted that farther progress was impossible; but the friendly shelter of the forest was at hand, and the pines waved their dark branches in token of an asylum. We turned our shoulders to the blast, and, comfortless and weather-beaten, sought our refuge. The scene, though changed, was still not without interest; the frequent crashes of falling trees, and the crackling of their vast limbs as they rocked and writhed in the tempest, created awful and impressive sounds; but it was no time to be idle: warmth and shelter were objects connected with life itself, and the Canadians immediately commenced the vigorous application of their resources. By means of their small light axes, a good sized maple tree was in a very few minutes levelled with the earth, and in the meantime we cleared of snow a square spot of ground, with large pieces of bark, ripped from the fallen trees. The fibrous bark of the white cedar, previously rubbed to powder between the hands, was ignited, and blowing upon this a flame was produced. This being fed, first by the silky peelings of the birch bark, and then by the bark itself, the oily and bituminous matter burst forth into full action, and a splendid fire raised its flames and smoke amidst a pile of huge logs, to

which one and all of us were constantly and eagerly contributing.

Having raised a covering of spruce boughs above our heads, to serve as a partial defence from the snow, which was still falling in great abundance, we sat down turning our feet to the fire, making the most of what was, under circumstances, a source of real consolation. We enjoyed absolute rest! One side of our square was bounded by a huge tree, which lay stretched across it. Against this our fire was made; and on the opposite side, towards which I turned my back, another very large one was growing, and into this latter, being old and decayed, I had by degrees worked my way, and it formed an admirable shelter. The snow was banked up on all sides nearly five feet high, like a white wall, and it resolutely maintained its position, not an atom yielded to the fierce crackling fire which blazed up close against it.

The Canadians were soon busily employed cooking broth in a saucepan, for they had provided themselves much better with provisions than I had. I had relied upon being able to put up with the fare I might meet with, not taking into consideration the want of traffic, and distance from the civilized parts of the province; owing to which the scanty provision of the inhabitants could not allow them to minister to the wants of others, although they might be provided with a sufficiency for themselves. And I now saw the guides pulling fresh meat out of the soup with their fingers, and sharing it liberally with my servant whom they had admitted into their mess. The poor fellows, seeing that I had nothing but a piece of salt-

ed pork, which I had toasted at the fire on a stick, offered me a share of their supper; but this I felt myself bound to decline. My servant had fewer scruples, and consequently fared better. In return for their intentions, I gave them a good allowance of whisky, which added to their comfort and increased their mirth. One by one they lighted their tobacco-pipes, and continued to smoke, till, dropping off by degrees, the whole party at last lay stretched out snoring before me.

Large flakes of snow continued to fall, and heavy clots dropped occasionally upon the ground. Our enormous fire had the effect of making me so comfortably warm, that I had deferred the use of my buffalo skin till I lay down to sleep, and, were it not for the volumes of smoke with which I was at first disturbed, and the pieces of fire which burnt holes in my clothes wherever they happened to fall, my lodging would have been, under circumstances, truly agreeable. I sat for some time, with a blanket thrown over my shoulders, in silent contemplation of a scene alike remarkable to me for its novelty and its dreariness.

The flames rose brilliantly, the sleeping figures of the men were covered with snow, the wind whistled wildly through the trees, whose majestic forms overshadowed us on every side, and our fire, while it shed the light of day on the immediately surrounding objects, diffused a deeper gloom over the further recesses of the forest.—*Head's Forest Scenes in North America.*

THE CATARACTS OF THE NILE.

THE following scenes of Egyptian Travel are taken from Mr Warburton's "The Crescent and the Cross,"—an interesting work recently published.

OUR voyage for the next hour was very exciting and picturesque; the river, narrowed between the dark crags, here and there boiled into milk white foam; sometimes a pyramid of nature-piled rocks towered from the desert plain; and between it and the barren hills would for a moment smile some spot of vivid verdure, shadowed by acacias, or a palm tree. The breeze was fair and fresh, and our bark breasted the torrent gallantly, flinging the foam from her bows on the black rocks as she struggled past. At the foot of the second rapid there was a space of calm water, over which she rushed as if to charge the fall; but it was too strong for her; for a moment she recoiled, then fairly went about, and seemed driving furiously and inevitably against an impending cliff, at whose base the water sweltered fearfully. One of the chiefs of the cataract had until now, been seated tranquilly on the deck, but watching with a vivid eye every motion of the admirably steered boat. Now came *his* time. In a moment more we should have been a wreck against that rugged rock, when suddenly he started to his feet; his cumbrous-looking drapery fell from around him like a veil. One moment he stood motionless at the bow, then plunged fearlessly into the torrent, emerged upon the threatening rock, and received upon his naked shoulder a blow that might have

felled a palm-tree—the very boat reeled from her collision with that iron man, who turned her aside with dexterous strength, and then she floated round into a quiet bay, and was at rest.

The next rapid is in view.

The chiefs had now ascended the rocks, and stood, with their long blue and white robes floating in the wind, giving directions to the eager and fluctuating crowd that swam round. Some Egyptian officers, meanwhile, were perched upon a point of rock, with their sabres crossed over their knees, and their pipes in their mouths, apparently the only animate or inanimate things exempt from the universal commotion or confusion. Now an English rope was made fast to the main-mast; and about a hundred Nubians, some on the rocks, some in the stream, taking hold, we were dragged up the hill of water, that foamed fiercely round our boat, and deluged her with its spray. "Yallough! Yallough!" we are on the very ridge where the waters seem heaped up ere they plunge below, and our boat trembles like a pennon in the wind. "Yallough! Yallough!" once more, and we are over it. After a short rest, we moved on over a quiet space of water to the third and greatest fall, where the whole body of the Nile precipitates itself from between two towering cliffs, foaming and splashing. Here Ibrahim Pasha's boat was lost, and his rais and two slaves were drowned, one of them in saving his master. To be in the actual struggle was more exciting; but it must have been very picturesque to witness it from the rocks, as the whole population of the country round clung to the long

rope and laid themselves out upon the rocks, awaiting the signal to start.

Now every arm is nerved, and every eye is riveted on the Rais of the Cataracts, who stands on a pinnacle of the rock, waving his staff like the wand of an enchanter who had invoked all that unearthly-looking crew to his assistance. He waited a little while for the wind, which now came rustling up the river and swayed his white beard and floating robes, as it filled our straining sails. Then, over the roar of the torrent, and the shouting of a thousand men his voice was heard. "Yallough!" he cried, and made a gesture as if he was going to do it all himself. That cry was answered by the dark crowd in a chorus of "Hizleir sah" (God help), as they laid their brawny shoulders to the rope, and made a rush forward. In we plunged, half buried in the cataract, but soon felt ourselves slowly ascending its steep, though every sight and sound was overwhelmed by the rush of waters, that foamed and sparkled over, and thundered round us. Some few number of convulsive struggle and intense suspense, and there! we are past the dreaded cataract, and floating calmly over the river, which is now uninterrupted for two hundred miles.

CROCODILE SHOOTING.

The first time a man fires at a crocodile is an epoch in his life. We had only now arrived in the waters where they abound, for it is a curious fact that none are ever seen below Mineyeh, though He-

rodotus speaks of them as fighting with the dolphins at the mouth of the Nile. A prize had been offered for the first man who detected a crocodile, and the crew had now been for two days on the alert in search of them. Buoyed up with the expectation of such game, we had latterly reserved our fire for them exclusively; and the wild duck and turtle, nay, even the vulture and the eagle, had swept past or soared above us in security. At length the cry of "Timseach! Timseach!" was heard from half-a-dozen claimants of the proffered prize, and half-a-dozen black fingers were eagerly pointed to a spot of sand, on which were strewn, apparently, some logs of trees. It was a covey of crocodiles. Hastily and steadily the boat run in shore. R—— was ill, so I had the enterprise to myself, and clambered up the steep bank with a quicker pulse than when I first levelled a rifle at a Highland deer. My intended victims might have prided themselves on their superior nonchalance; and, indeed, as I approached them, there seemed to be a sneer on their ghastly mouths and winking eyes. Slowly they rose, one after the other, and waddled to the water, all but one, the most gallant or the most gorged of the party. He lay still until I was within a hundred yards of him; then, slowly rising on his fin-like legs, he lumbered towards the river, looking askance at me, with an expression of countenance that seemed to say, "He can do me no harm; however, I may as well have a swim." I took aim at the throat of this supercilious brute, and, as soon as my hand steadied, the very pulsation of my finger pulled the trigger. Bang went the gun,

whiz flew the bullet, and my excited ear could catch the *thud* with which it plunged into the scaly leather of his neck. His waddle became a plunge, the waves closed over him, and the sun shone on the calm water, as I reached the brink of the shore, that was still indented by the waving of his gigantic tail. But there is blood upon the water, and he rises for a moment to the surface. "A hundred piasters for the timseach!" I exclaimed, and half-a-dozen Arabs plunged into the stream. There! he rises again, and the blacks dash at him, as if he hadn't a tooth in his head. Now, he is gone, and the waters close over him, and I never saw him since. From that time we saw hundreds of crocodiles of all sizes, and fired shots enough at them for a Spanish revolution; but we never could get possession of any, even if we hit them, which to this day remains uncertain. I believe each traveller, who is honest enough, will make the same confession.

THE BATTLE OF THE NILE.

OFTEN as this great naval victory has been described, it was never to our mind, pictured in more glowing colours than in the following rapid sketch by Mr Warburton, the author of "The Crescent and the Cross:"—

HAVING landed Buonaparte and his army, Brueys lay moored in the form of a crescent, close along the shore. His vastly superior force and the strength of his position (protected towards the northward by dangerous shoals, and towards the westward by the

castle and batteries) made him consider that position impregnable. He wrote on the strength of this conviction, to Paris, to say that Nelson purposely avoided him. Was he undeceived when Hood, in the Zealous, making signal that the enemy was in sight, a cheer of anticipated triumph burst from every ship in the British fleet—that fleet which had swept the seas with bursting sails for six long weeks in search of its formidable foe, and now pressed to the battle as eagerly as if nothing but a rich and easy prize awaited them?

Nelson had long been sailing in battle-order, and he now only lay-to in the offing till the rearward ships should come up. The soundings of that dangerous Bay were unknown to him, but he knew that where there was room for a Frenchman to lie at anchor [to swing], there must be room for an English ship to lie alongside [on either side] of him, and the closer the better. As his proud and fearless fleet came on, he hailed Hood, to ask his opinion as to whether he thought it would be advisable to commence the attack that night; and receiving the answer that he longed for, the signal for "close battle" flew from his mast-head. The delay thus caused to the Zealous gave Foley the lead, who showed the example of leading *inside* the enemy's line, and anchored by the stern alongside the second ship, thus leaving to Hood the first. The latter exclaimed to my informant, "Thank God, he has generously left to his old friend still to lead the van." Slowly and majestically as the evening fell, the remainder of the fleet came on beneath a cloud of sail, receiving the

fire of the castle and the batteries in portentous silence, only broken by the crash of spars and the boatswain's whistle as each ship furled her sails calmly—as a sea-bird might fold its wings—and glided tranquilly onward till she found her destined foe. Then her anchor dropped astern, and her fire burst from her bloody decks with a vehemence that showed how sternly it had been repressed till then.

The leading ships passed between the enemy and the shore; but when the admiral came up he led the remainder of the fleet along the seaward side—thus doubling on the Frenchman's line, and placing it in a defile of fire. The sun went down after Nelson anchored; and his rearward ships were only guided through the darkness and the dangers of that formidable bay by the Frenchmen's fire flashing fierce welcome as each enemy arrived, and hovered along the line, coolly scrutinizing where he could draw most of that fire on himself. The Bellerophon, with gallant recklessness, fastened on the gigantic Orient, and was soon crushed and scorched into a wreck by the terrible artillery of batteries more than double the number of her own. But, before she drifted helplessly to leeward, *she had done her work*—the French Admiral's ship was on fire; and, through the roar of battle, a whisper went that for a moment paralysed every eager heart and hand. During that dread pause the fight was suspended—the very wounded ceased to groan—yet the burning ship continued to fire broadsides from her flaming decks, her gallant crew alone unawed by their approaching fate, and shouting their own brave requiem. At length—with

the concentrated roar of a thousand battles—the explosion came; and the column of flame that shot upward into the very sky for a moment rendered visible the whole surrounding scene—from the red flags aloft to the reddened decks below—the wide shore, with all its swarthy crowds—and the far-off glittering sea, with the torn and dismantled fleets. Then darkness and silence came again, only broken by the shower of blazing fragments in which that brave ship fell upon the waters. Till that moment Nelson was ignorant how the battle went. He knew that every man was doing his duty, but he knew not how successfully; he had been wounded in the forehead, and found his way unnoticed to the deck in the suspense of the coming explosion. Its light was a fitting lamp for eye like his to read by. He saw his own proud flag still floating every where, and at the same moment his crew recognised their wounded chief. The wild cheer with which they welcomed him was drowned in the renewed roar of the artillery, and the fight continued until near the dawn.

Morning rose upon an altered scene. The sun had set upon as proud a fleet as ever sailed from the the gay shores of France: torn and blackened hulls now only marked the position they had till then occupied; and where their Admiral's ship *had* been, the blank sea sparkled in the sunshine. Two ships of the line and two frigates escaped, to be captured soon afterwards; but within the bay the tri-colour was flying on board the Tonnant alone. As the Theseus approached to attack her, attempting to capitulate, she hoisted a flag of truce. "Your battle-

flag or none," was the stern reply, as her enemy rounded-to, and the hatches glimmered over her line of guns. Slowly and reluctantly—like an expiring hope—that pale flag fluttered down from her lofty spars, and the next that floated there was the banner of Old England.

ADVENTURE OF A BRITISH SOLDIER.

In the year 1759, when the war with France was conducted with great spirit in North America, a division of the British army was encamped on the banks of a river, and in a position so favoured by nature, that it was difficult for any military art to surprise it. War in America was rather a species of hunting than a regular campaign. The French, like the British, had incorporated the Indians into their ranks, and had made them useful in a species of war to which their habits of life had peculiarly fitted them. They sallied out of their impenetrable forests and jungles, and with their arrows and tomahawks committed daily waste upon the British army—surprising their sentinels, cutting off their stragglers, and even when the alarm was given and pursuit commenced, they fled with a swiftness that the speed of cavalry could not overtake, into rocks and fastnesses whither it was dangerous to follow them. It order to limit as far as possible this species of war, in which there was so much loss and so little honour, it was the custom with every regiment to extend its

outposts to a great distance beyond the encampments; to station sentinels some miles in the woods, and keep a constant guard round the main body.

A regiment of foot was at this time stationed upon the confines of a boundless savannah. Its particular office was to guard every avenue of approach to the main body; the sentinels, whose posts penetrated into the woods, were supplied from the ranks, and the service of this regiment was thus more hazardous than that of any other. Its loss was likewise great. The sentinels were perpetually surprised upon their posts by the Indians, and were borne off their stations without communicating any alarm, or being heard of after. Not a trace was left of the manner in which they had been conveyed away, except that upon one or two occasions, a few drops of blood had appeared upon the leaves which covered the ground. Many imputed this unaccountable disappearance to treachery, and suggested as an unanswerable argument, that the men thus surprised might at least have fired their muskets, and communicated the alarm to the contiguous posts. Others who could not he brought to consider it as treachery, were content to receive it as a mystery which time would unravel.

One morning, the sentinels having been stationed as usual over night, the guard went out at sunrise to relieve a post which extended a considerable distance into the wood. The sentinel was gone! The surprise was great; but the circumstance had occurred before. They left another man, and departed, wishing him better luck. "You need not be afraid," said the man with warmth; "I shall not desert!"

The relief company returned to the guard-house. The sentinels were replaced every four hours, and at the appointed time the guard again marched to relieve the post. To their inexpressible astonishment, the man was gone! They searched round the spot, but no traces could be found of his disappearance. It was necessary that the station, from a stronger motive than ever, should not remain unoccupied; they were compelled to leave another man, and returned to the guard-house. The superstition of the soldiers was awakened, and terror ran through the regiment. The colonel being apprised of the occurrence, signified his intention to accompany the guard when they relieved the sentinel they had left. At the appointed time, they all marched together; and again, to their unutterable wonder, they found the post vacant, and the man gone! Under these circumstances, the colonel hesitated whether he should station a whole company on the spot, or whether he should again submit the post to a single sentinel. The cause of these repeated disappearances of men, whose courage and honesty were never suspected, must be discovered; and it seemed not likely that this discovery could be obtained by persisting in the old method. Three brave men were now lost to the regiment, and to assign the post to a fourth seemed nothing less than giving him up to destruction. The poor fellow whose turn it was to take the station, though a man in other respects of incomparable resolution, trembled from head to foot. "I must do my duty," said he to the officer; "I know that; but I should like to lose my life with more credit." "I will leave no man," said the co-

lonel, "against his will." A man immediately stept from the ranks, and desired to take the post. Every mouth commended his resolution. "I will not be taken alive," said he; "and you shall hear of me on the least alarm. At all events, I will fire my piece if I hear the least noise. If a crow chatters or a leaf falls, you shall hear my musket. You may be alarmed when nothing is the matter; but you must take the chance as the condition of the discovery." The colonel applauded his courage, and told him he would be right to fire upon the least noise which was ambiguous. His comrades shook hands with him, and left him with a melancholy foreboding. The company marched back, and waited the event in the guard-house.

An hour had elapsed, and every ear was upon the rack for the discharge of the musket, when, upon a sudden, the report was heard. The guard immediately marched, accompanied, as before, by the colonel, and some of the most experienced officers of the regiment. As they approached the post, they saw the man advancing towards them, dragging another man on the ground by the hair of his head. When they came up to him, it appeared to be an Indian whom he had shot. An explanation was immediately required.

"I told your honour," said the man, "that I should fire if I heard the least noise. The resolution I had taken has saved my life. I had not been long on my post when I heard a rustling at some short distance; I looked, and saw an American hog, such as are common in the woods, crawling along the ground, and

seemingly looking for nuts under the trees and among the leaves. As these animals are so very common, I ceased to consider it for some minutes; but being on the constant alarm and expectation of attack, and scarcely knowing what was to be considered a real cause of apprehension, I kept my eyes vigilantly fixed upon it, and marked its progress among the trees; still there was no need to give the alarm, and my thoughts were directed to danger from another quarter. It struck me, however, as somewhat singular, to see this animal making, by a circuitous passage for a thick coppice immediately behind my post. I therefore kept my eye constantly fixed upon it, and, as it was now within a few yards of the coppice, hesitated whether I should not fire. My comrades, thought I, would laugh at me for alarming them by shooting a pig. I had almost resolved to let it alone, when, just as it approached the thicket, I thought I observed it give an unusual spring. I no longer hesitated: I took my aim—discharged my piece—and the animal was instantly stretched before me with a groan which I conceived to be that of a human creature. I went up to it, and judge my astonishment when I found that I had killed an Indian! He had enveloped himself with the skin of one of these wild hogs so artfully and completely, his hands and feet were so entirely concealed in it, and his gait and appearance so exactly correspondent to that of the animal, that, imperfectly as they were always seen through the trees and jungles, the disguise could not be penetrated at a distance, and scarcely discovered

upon the nearest aspect. He was armed with a dagger and a tomahawk."

Such was the substance of this man's relation. The cause of the disappearance of the other sentinels was now apparent. The Indians, sheltered in this disguise, secreted themselves in the coppice; watched the moment when they could throw it off; burst upon the sentinels without previous alarm; and too quick to give them an opportunity to discharge their pieces, either stabbed or scalped them, and bore their bodies away, which they concealed at some distance among the leaves.—*From a Scrap-book.*

PRESERVATION FROM DROWNING.

The following particulars of a remarkable escape from drowning have been furnished us by Mr D. Colville, who was an eye-witness of the event which he so graphically describes. We trust that the suggestion of Mr Colville will not be overlooked, and that something will be done to mark the feeling the public entertain of the benevolent and disinterested exertions of the crew of Captain Tod's boat, who, under Providence, were the means of preserving the lives of two of their fellow-creatures.

It was my fortune on Friday, 6th instant, to witness a most merciful display of Providence. I had taken the boys of the Institution to Lossiemouth, on a sea-bathing excursion, and, whilst viewing the harbour, Captain Tod very kindly offered to give them a sail; the weather was such as justified my acceptance of the captain's kind offer, and we set sail in the boat manned by Messrs M'Donald, Wilson, Ross, and Johnstone, for Lossiemouth. The boys were enjoying their novel situation—had sung "Sound the

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loud timbrel," and some pieces of a lighter nature, such as "Weel may the boatie row,"—when M'Donald asked his comrades if they saw a boat off Spey; all had seen her a few minutes before, but now no boat was visible; and the general opinion was that the crew had taken in the sails. M'Donald did not think so; he had watched her for some time, because he thought her improperly managed; when the boys were singing, he had lost sight of her in an instant, and the sails could not have been taken down so suddenly as she had disappeared. Calling another man to the helm, with all the activity of a seaman, he sprang to the top of the mast, and after scanning the water for a short time, shouted out, "Give her way, —give her way, lads,—I see the wreck." The cry of all the men with one voice rose from our deck, and the response was—"Give her way; oh! give her way, and ply the oars; I see them." They gave her way, and with vigour too. M'Donald descended from the mast, and all that canvass, oars, and skill (in our circumstances) could do, was done. Our boat leapt through the water with the speed of benevolence flying to the aid of all it holds most dear. As the wreck could not be seen from the deck, M'Donald again ascended the mast, and scarcely had he secured himself upon it when he had the mortification to behold the unfortunate men he was struggling to save lose their slippery hold. "Oh, give her way," he cried, "a minute may save life; but they are gone." This cheerless intelligence only animated the exertions of our crew. They pulled with the energy of men who were conscious they themselves were fre-

quently exposed to a like calamity. In little more than a minute, M'Donald saw the men again clinging to the wreck, when, waving his hat in the air, with a terrible voice he shouted out—"Steady, my brave fellows, steady, we'll save you," and was at the oars in an instant. As we neared them, the two men became visible to all on deck. It was awfully interesting to behold a head and shoulders rising up out of the sea, with an arm above them, desperately waving a signal of distress. For my own part, I did not breathe freely from the time I first beheld them till they were safe in our boat, which the skilful management of its crew very soon effected. The young men were Mr Thomson (son of Mr Thomson, Buckie), and a Mr Fraser, who had accompanied him. Never have I seen men more helpless; they were utterly exhausted; terror and the sea had nearly done their work on them. Fraser had several times lost his hold, and Thomson in picking him up had swallowed salt water to a considerable extent, and was, in fact, by the time they were taken up, worse than Fraser. A few minutes longer, and they must have found a watery grave. The poor fellows being stripped of their clothes, and rolled up in the flannels of the brave men who saved them, their boat was fished up, and towed in triumph to Lossiemouth. Does not the crew of Captain Tod's boat deserve a reward? Their vigilance and activity saved the lives of these young men. They observed their perilous situation at a distance of between five and six miles, and flew to their rescue.—*Elgin Courant.*

AN UNPARALLELLED CHASE.

Mr L—— had with him a young Kentuckian, named D——, a fine, daring fellow, with a frame of iron, the speed of the ostrich, and the endurance of the camel. He was fortunate, moreover, in the retention of a half-breed, called Mal Bœuf (Bad Beef), who, notwithstanding his name, was considered of hardly less merit than D——; and between the two men, consequently, a keen rivalry existed. D—— had travelled on foot from the Blackbird Hills to Fort Lisa, a distance of ninety miles, in thirteen hours! Mal Bœuf also boasted some astonishing feats of "bottom;" and both were stationed at the fort, during the time we speak of, for the purpose of providing venison. One evening in July, the weather extremely warm, the glass high, and the post unfurnished with meat, the two men were playing at cards, when their employer came up, reproached them with their negligence, and ordered them to start, the first thing in the morning, on a hunt. Obedience was promised of course; but the game continued, each moment growing more desperate, the spirit of rivalry pervading their hearts in every thing, till, finally, the morning broke as the half-breed declared himself to be *broken*. They fell asleep on the spot, and the sun was well up when Mr L——, informed of the case, again approached, in no pleasant humour it may be supposed, and aroused the delinquents, who, a little ashamed, took their guns, and started for Pampillon Creek, on the edge of the prairie, about

five miles off. There they discovered a gang of elk, when the Kentuckian suggested a plan of approach that would enable them to get a good shot. The half-breed, rankling at his friend's triumph the night previous, observed sulkily, "I don't kill elk with my *gun*, but with my *knife*." The pluck of the other was roused in an instant, rightly interpreting the vaunt as a challenge to a trial of speed and bottom; and, on his saying proudly, that what his companion could do he could do also, both hung their guns on a tree, and approaching the band as near as possible, they suddenly raised the Indian yell, which has a most paralyzing effect upon the animals. Off they went across a low prairie a few miles in width, leaving their pursuers far behind. But steadily the latter continued their pace nevertheless. They reached the bluff, ascended, crossed, descended, one resolve uppermost in their minds, "never to say fail."

The chase and race continued, until, approaching Elk Horn River, a distance of twenty miles, by mutual agreement, they took a circuit with an increase of speed, got a-head of the elk, and actually prevented them from crossing. Leagues and leagues, upon a new track, the chase continued, the animals by this time so exhausted by heat, thirst, and above all, fright—for the hunters had incessantly sent forth their yells, in this case as much a scream of mutual defiance as an artifice of the chase—that they scarcely exceeded their pursuers in speed. The latter, foaming and maddened with excitement, redoubled their efforts, until the elk, reaching a prairie pond, or "sink," the hunters at their heels, plunged despair-

ingly in, lay down, and abandoned themselves, heedless of all else, to the gratification of their thirst. The frantic rivals, knife in hand, dashed in after their prey, began the work of slaughter, paused not until they had butchered sixteen, dragged them from the water, and cut up and prepared the meat for transportation to the fort, whither they had to return for horses. Had the race ended? No! For victory or death was the inward determination, and as yet neither had given way, Off dashed again the indomitable half-breed, and at his side the unyielding Kentuckian. Rise and hollow, stream and timber, no yelling now, in desperate silence, were left behind. The sun was sinking: blind, staggering, on they went. They reached the fort, haggard, wild, aud voiceless. A crowd gathered round the exhausted men, who had arrived together, and now lay fainting, still side by side, a long time before they were enabled, by signs and whispers, to tell that they had run down sixteen elk, and yet couldn't say which was the best man.—*Simmond's Colonial Magazine.*

A DESCRIPTION OF CANTON.

FROM Mr Davies's work on China, published by Charles Knight and Co. It contains an ample and most interesting account of the country.

IN the portion of Canton in which the European factories are situated, the shops are commonly quite open towards the street—that is, those appropriated to Chinese customers; for the few streets devoted to

European trade are rather on a different plan, the shops being of a closer structure, and less exposed to external observation. The several streets are commonly devoted to distinct trades. There is *Carpenter* Street, or rather square, as it is carried round a parallelogram; *Curiosity* Street (as the English call it) is devoted to the sale of antiques, real and factitious; and *Apothecary* Street is full of druggist' shops, the drawers in which are neatly arranged and lettered, but filled principally with simples. By the side of each shop is suspended from on high a huge ornamental label of wood, varnished and gilded, on which are inscribed the particular calling of the tenant, and the goods in which he deals. This label being hung like the sign of one of our inns, with its *edge* towards the street, and inscribed on both sides, can be read by all who approach the shop in either direction; and the vista of these numerous variegated sign-boards, glittering with gold and varnish, gives to the better streets a very gay appearance. The inscriptions in the shops are sometimes amusing, and at the same time highly characteristic of the keenness and industry of the people as traders. We have seen the following—"Gossiping and long sitting injure business." "Former customers have inspired caution—no credit given." "A small stream always flowing." "Goods genuine, prices true." "Trade circling like a wheel," &c. Either the police must be very good, or the populace tolerably abstemious; for some of the shops, which are pretty richly supplied, appear to be much exposed towards the street. But the inhabitants of each division generally combine into a system of

watch and ward for the common protection; and, during the night, the streets are closed at each end by doors, which are guarded by the regular police.

The principal shops connected with European and American trade are those occupied by dealers in silks, lacquered and carved ware, and all those smaller articles that are not restricted to the Hong merchants, who have the *exclusive* privilege of trading in tea, cotton, and other chief commodities. When the latter feel occasionally inclined to push their monopoly beyond its established limits, and to encroach on the sufficiently narrow trade of the shopmen, these usually combine for the purpose of opposing them, with some chance of success. At the close of 1834, the Hong merchants showed a disposition to exercise the whole weight of their exclusive privileges against the English free-trade, and even to *add* to them, by depriving the shopmen of their accustomed dealings. A considerable ferment was created among the latter, which gave rise to a species of trades' unions, composed of manufacturers and dealers, who combined to plague the Hong merchants, and petition the government, and succeeded at length in retaining such portion of the trade as they had before possessed.

The silk-weavers and dealers are much in the habit of forming combinations to maintain the rules of their trade, and the prices of work as well as goods. The forfeit for violating the laws of the combination is, to be at the sole expense of a dramatic exhibition, which lasts for three days, and to pay half the value of the commodity sold contrary to rule for the support of

the tradesmen's hall, of which there is generally one in every principal city, belonging to each wealthy *corporation* of traders, if they may be so termed. The Embassy of 1816 observed at Kan-chow-foo, a principal city of Keang-sy province, that by far the most considerable buildings were the commercial halls belonging to the associated merchants and dealers. The principal room in the exchange of the green tea-merchants (who pass by Kan-chow-foo on their way to Canton) was named *Hychum Tâng*, or "Hyson Hall." In the appropriation of these edifices (observes a private journal of the Embassy), there is a singular combination of religious with commercial objects. They generally contain a temple of Budh, or some local divinity, and at the same time are used as an exchange, and house of entertainment and lodging for the society of merchants to whom they belong.

The worshipful corporation of silkmen of Canton having been of opinion, in 1833, that some of their fraternity had been unfairly dealt with by an American, in a contract for silk-piece goods, forthwith exhibited a rather amusing placard against him. "In conducting commercial transactions (said the paper) the Chinese and foreigners are generally the same; in buying and selling with justice and equity, there is no difference between them. When the goods are delivered, the money is immediately paid; there is no perverse difficulties made, nor cutting deductions inflicted. But there is now living in the Swedish factory, No. 2, an American devil, named *Hot*,* to

* Chinese corruption of the real name.

whom a wolfish voracity has become nature. He monopolises silks and various goods for the Americans. A gluttonous avarice fills his heart. There is long procrastination and money unpaid—contracting for *much* and then requiring *little*, with the concealed and villanous intention of picking and choosing. He would point at a *gem* and call it a *stone*,* and then advance to administer the deadly potion of cutting down the price! And, again, when the time of payment arrived, he would enforce discounts. He scraped and peeled off from the trader both skin and fat. He, knowing that when the goods were once prepared there was none to take them but himself, forced his reduction upon us, and the Chinese brokers likewise servilely complied with his wish, joining and assisting in his wickedness; so that we have been torn by the wolf and swallowed by the whale! We have become fish and flesh to him—our property is wasted without a return—all our hearts unite in detesting him; and therefore we have issued this song of our discontent. All the weavers of satin, silk, and crape, publicly unite in the above declaration."

In the city of Canton are licensed temples, which may be considered as samples of what are to be found in most other cities of the empire. The Kuângheaoutse or "Temple of Resplendent Filial Duty," is one of the largest, and stands within the walls, near the north-west corner of the city. It is endowed with a considerable quantity of land for the support of its priests or inmates, who amount to 200 in number,

* Figuratively.

and is said to have been built as long ago as the period of the "Three Kingdoms," A. D. 250. Another temple, having attached to it a lofty pagoda or minaret, is in fact a Mahomedan mosque, built (as the Chinese say) by *foreigners*, in the Tâng dynasty, when the Arabs traded to Canton, and still fully tolerated. The Mahomedans amount at present to as many as 3000, and are distinguished from the other inhabitants as persons "who have no idols, and who will not eat swine's flesh."

Besides less considerable ones, there is a Budhist establishment at Canton, about three quarters of a mile north of the foreign factories, in the suburb beyond the city walls, which contains a hundred priests, who are maintained on an annual revenue of 7000 taëls. The temple, with its grounds, occupies some acres of land, and has several spacious halls, one of which has been lately built by a son of Howqua, the Hong merchant. In one part of the temple is a large image of Budh, and in another an idol of *Kuân-yin*, the goddess who "regards the cries" of mortals, and assists them. She is worshipped chiefly by women. Another very large temple and monastery of the Budhist persuasion is to be seen on the opposite side of the river, nearly fronting the European factories.

Among other temples, Canton, and indeed every principal city, contains one to the majesty and long life of the emperor, under the title of Wân-show Koong, or the "Hall of Ten Thousand Years:" the walls and furniture of this temple are yellow, and at the period when the emperor's birthday occurs in every year, the viceroy and all the principal officers

of government, both civil and military, assemble there to pay him adoration. The solemnities practised are exactly the same as when he is present. No chairs are allowed; but every one takes with him a cushion, on which he sits cross-legged upon the ground, as the Embassy and mandarins did at the imperial feast at Tien-tsin in 1816.

Among the most respectable looking buildings of Canton, inasmuch as the *fronts* at least are concerned, are the foreign factories, which occupy a very limited extent along the bank of the river, in the south-western suburb. The confined state of these, and their utter inadequacy to accommodate an increased number of traders, at the same time that the government refuses any increase of space, is a subject which must very soon be debated with the local authorities. These factories, together with a large portion of the suburb in which they are situated, are built on a muddy flat, which has been gained from the river, and they are consequently erected upon wooden piles, only just above high-water mark. The heavy rains, during the summers of 1833 and 1834, produced overflowings of the river which inundated the whole of the European factories to the height of several feet on their ground-floors. Boats plied from door to door along the streets, and from one European residence to another; and a net was seen to be cast for fish in the midst of a Hong merchant's grounds! This was succeeded, as might have been expected, by sickness among the natives and Europeans; and there can be little doubt that if the inundations frequently recur, the factories, both from that cause and from their crowded state, will

become uninhabitable by the large numbers who are prepared to try their fortunes at Canton. There is no remedy for these evils, excepting permission to erect additional factories in a more healthy situation, and beyond the reach of the high tides, which never fail, during the rainy months, to inundate some portion of the space towards the river. The effect of this, in a hot climate, must, of course, be highly noxious.

It may, perhaps, seem incredible that the whole frontage of the buildings in which foreigners of all nations are shut up together for the prosecution of their trading business at Canton does not exceed between seven and eight hundred feet. Each front, of which there are about thirteen, extends backwards about a hundred and thirty yards into a long narrow lane or thoroughfare, on each side of which, as well as over arches that cross it, are the confined abodes of the English, French, Dutch, Americans, Parsees, and others. Many of these spend a large portion, if not the whole, of their lives here in the worship of mammon, without the sight of a female face, and with no recreation but the jingling of dollars, as they are perpetually being weighed or examined by the Chinese money-changers, in receipts or payments. Many years back a considerable number of flags, as the Danish, Swedish, and Austrian, were hoisted in front of the factories, besides the English, Dutch, and American; but for the last quarter of a century these three, with the French *tricolor*, which was erected soon after the revolution of 1830, have been the only foreign ensigns seen there. The European factories

are called by the Chinese "the thirteen *Hongs*;" the word Hong being always used by them to denote a commercial establishment or warehouse. According to their custom, each factory is distinguished either by some appellation denoting wealth and prosperity, or by its flag. Thus the Austrian or imperial factory was called the "Twin-eagle Hong," a name which it retains to this day; the Danish the "Yellow flag Hong;" the Company's, the "Hong that ensures Tranquillity;" the American, the "Hong of extensive Fountains;" and so on. To the east of all there is a narrow inlet from the river,—a fetid ditch, which serves to surround a portion of the city wall, as well as to drain that part of the town. This is crossed with a single arch, by a narrow street at the back of the factories, that leads to the warehouses of the several Hong merchants, all of them communicating with the river by wooden or stone stairs, from which the tea and other merchandise is shipped. The space occupied by the foreign factories is crossed by two well-known thoroughfares, one of them named China Street, and the other very appropriately dignified with the descriptive title of Hog Lane. The former is rather broader than the generality of Chinese streets, and contains the shops of the small dealers in carved and lacquered ware, silks, and other articles in common demand by strangers. These are attracted to the several shops by inscriptions in the European character, which sometimes promise more than they perform: as when the dauber of truculent likenesses calls himself a "handsome-face painter," &c. The shops, instead of being set out

with the showy and sometimes expensive front of an English or French *boutique*, are closed in by gloomy black shutters, and very ill lit by a small skylight, or rather a hole in the roof. The inmates, instead of showing the civility and alacrity of shopkeepers in London or Paris, and anticipating the demands of their customers in the display of their goods, slowly, and sometime sullenly, produce the articles from their cases and cupboards as they may be asked for: so that shopping at Canton is far from being an agreeable pastime.

A large portion of the manufacturing business of the place is carried on, not upon the spot, but at a place callen Foshan, about ten or twelve miles higher up the river. This stream, which is of such magnitude opposite to the city as to float the largest junks, some of them equal to eight hundred or a thousand tons burthen, loses much of its size at a town called San-shuey Hien, which is not more than thirty-six miles above Canton, and is so named from the river there forming "three streams," or branches, one of which conducts from the north, the other from the west, and the third, composed of these two united, leads down to the city. Nothing can exceed the beauty of the country along the sides of the river. The low country is interspersed with numerous well-wooded hills, planted chiefly with firs, which rise like islands above the cultivated flats by which they are surrounded. The banks of the stream are richly planted with fruit trees, consisting of the peach, the orange, and the plantain: and experience has shown that their roots, imbedded in the rich mud which has

been chiefly gained from the river, and constantly fed with moisture by the tides, succeed better in that situation than in any other.

Not the least remarkable objects on the water, near Canton, are the immense rafts of fir which are constantly floated down to that place from the north and west. These are frequently many hundred yards in length, and consist often of systems of rafts lashed together, and extending to an incredible distance. They are guided down the river by means of long bamboo poles, managed by a few persons who erect their huts on the rafts, and make them their temporary abodes. A family of young children may frequently be seen sporting fearlessly, and in perfect security on these huge plains of floating timber.

It must be observed, that no inconsiderable portion of what may be considered as the population of Canton exists upon the river, in the multitudes that inhabit the junks, barges, and small boats. A very large majority of the latter (as remarked in the "description" of the city) are Tân-kea, or "egg-house" boats, from their shape resembling the longitudinal section of an egg. They are generally not more than ten or twelve feet long, about six broad, and so low that a person can scarcely stand up in them. Their covering consists of a bamboo or mat tilt, shaped like that of a waggon, which is very light, and serves tolerably as a defence against the weather. Whole families live in these boats, and are considered as a distinct part of the population, being under a separate regulation, and not allowed to intermarry with those on shore. The extreme order which

reigned on the Canton river, nowithstanding its crowded state, particularly struck Captain Laplace, whose remarks on the subject are here translated, as the impressions of an individual altogether new to the place:—"The greatest tranquillity, a perfect harmony, reigns amidst this aquatic population. All these boats, of forms and dimensions so varied, move peaceably about. No fights, and rarely any quarrels. Each boat carrying either passengers or goods, and sculled by a female, surrounded by her little ones, meets everywhere with a good-humoured accommodation, in consequence of which, notwithstanding the rapid current of the river, accidents are extremely rare. What a lesson for the lower orders, so brutal, so coarse, among nations who pretend at the same time to be the most civilised in the world! In China, the knowledge and the arts, which have given such an impulse to the industry of France and England, are much as they were in Europe above a century ago; but I repeat that the Chinese are very much our superiors in *true* civilisation: in that which frees the majority of men from the brutality and ignorance which, among many European nations, place the lowest classes of society on a level with the most savage beasts." Monsieur Laplace is quite right; the lower classes of the Chinese people are better educated, or at least better trained, than in most other countries.

THE FEVER SHIP.

I SAILED from Liverpool for Jamaica, and after a pleasant voyage arrived at my destination, and discharged my cargo. My vessel was called the *Lively Charlotte*, a tight brig, well found for trading, and navigated by thirteen hands. I reloaded with sugar and rum for Halifax, intending to freight from that place for England before the setting in of winter. This object I could only achieve by using double diligence, allowing a reasonable time for accidental obstacles. My brig was built sharp, for sailing fast and I did not trouble myself about convoy, (it was during war), as I could run a fair race with a common privateer, and we trusted to manœuvring, four heavy carronades, and a formidable show of painted ports and quakers, * for escaping capture by any enemy not possessing such an overwhelming superiority of force as would give him confidence to run boldly close alongside, and find out what were really our means of defence.

I speedily shipped what provisions and necessaries I wanted, and set sail. A breeze scarcely sufficient to fill the canvass carried us out of Port Royal harbour. The weather was insufferably hot; the air seemed full of fire, and the redness of the hemisphere, not long before sunset, glared as intensely as the flame of a burning city. Jamaica was very sickly: the yellow fever had destroyed numbers of the in-

* Wooden guns; so called by seamen, because they will not fight.

habitants, and three-fourths of all new comers speedily became its victims. I had been fortunate enough to lose only two men during my stay of three or four weeks, but they were the two most sturdy and healthy seamen in the brig: the first died in thirty-nine hours after he was attacked, and the second on the fourth day. Two hands besides were ill when we left, which reduced to nine the number capable of performing duty. I imagined that putting to sea was the best plan I could adopt to afford the sick a chance of recovery, and retard the spreading of the disorder among such as remained in health. But I was deceived. I carried the contagion with me; and on the evening of the day on which we lost sight of land, another hand died, and three more were taken ill. Still I congratulated myself I was no worse off, since other vessels had lost half their crews while in Port Royal, and some in much less time than we had remained there. We sailed prosperously through the windward passage, so close to Cuba that we could plainly distinguish the trees and shrubs growing upon it, and then shaped our course north-easterly, to clear the Bahamas and gain the great ocean.

We had seen and lost sight of Crooked Island three days, when it became all at once a dead calm; even the undulation of the sea, commonly called the ground swell, subsided; the sails hung slackened from the yards; the vessel slept like a turtle on the ocean, which became as smooth as a summer mill-pond. The atmosphere could not have sustained a feather; cloudless and clear, the blue serene above and the water below were alike spotless, shadowless, and

stagnant. Disappointment and impatience were exhibited by us all, while the sun, flaring from the burning sky, melted the pitch in the rigging till it ran down on the decks, and a beefsteak might have been broiled on the anchor-fluke. We could not pace the planks without blistering our feet, until I ordered an awning over the deck for our protection; but still the languor we experienced was overpowering.

A dead calm is always viewed with an uneasy sensation by seamen, but in the present case it was more than usually unwelcome; to the sick it denied the freshness of the breeze that would have mitigated in some degree their agonies; and it gave a predisposition to the healthy to imbibe the contagion, lassitude and despondency being its powerful auxiliaries. Assisted by the great heat, the fever appeared to decompose the very substance of the blood; and its progress was so rapid, that no medicine could operate, before death closed the scene of suffering. I had no surgeon on board, but from a medicine chest I in vain administered the common remedies; but what remedies could be expected to act with efficacy, where the disease destroyed life almost as quickly as the current of life circulated! I had now but five men able to do duty, and never can I forget my feelings when three of these were taken ill on the fourth day of our unhappy inactivity. One of the sick expired, as I stood by his cot, in horrible convulsions. His skin was of a deep saffron hue; watery blood oozed from every pore, and from the corners of his eyes; he seemed dissolving into blood, liquifying into death. Another man rushed upon deck in a fit of delirium,

and sprang over the ship's side into the very jaws of the sharks that hovered ravenous around us, and seemed to be aware of the havoc death was making.

I had now the dreadful prospect of seeing all that remained perish, and prayed to God I might not be the last; for I should then become an ocean solitary, dragging on a life of hours in every second. A day's space must then be an age of misery. There was still no appearance of a breeze springing up; the horrible calm appeared as if it would endure for ever. A storm would have been welcome. The irritating indolence, the frightful loneliness and tranquillity that reigned around, united with the frequent presence of human dissolution thinning our scanty number, was more than the firmest nerves could sustain without yielding to despair. Sleep fled far from me; I paced the deck at night, gazing upon the remnant of my crew in silence, and they upon me, hopeless and speechless. I looked at the brilliant stars, that shone in tropical glory, with feverish and impatient feelings, wishing I were among them, or bereft of consciousness, or were anything but a man. A heavy presentiment of increasing evil bore down my spirits. I regarded the unruffled sea, dark and glassy, and the reflection of the heavens in it, as a sinner would have contemplated the mouth of hell. The scene, so beautiful at any other time, was terrible under my circumstances. I was overwhelmed with present and anticipated misery. Thirty years I had been accustomed to a sea life, but I had never contemplated that so horrible a situation as mine was possible; I had never imagined that any state half so frightful

could exist, though storms had often placed my life in jeopardy, and I had been twice shipwrecked. In the last misfortune mind and body were actively employed, and I had no leisure to brood over the future. To be passive, as I now was, with destruction creeping towards me inch by inch; to perceive the most horrible fate advancing slowly upon me, and be obliged to await its approach, pinioned, fixed to the spot, powerless, unable to keep the hope of deliverance alive by exertion—such a situation was the extreme of mortal suffering, a pain of mind language is inadequate to describe, and I endured in silence the full weight of its infliction.

My mate and cabin boy were now taken with the disease; and on the evening of the fifth day, Will. Stokes, the oldest seamen on board, breathed his last, just at the going down of the sun. At midnight another died. By the light of the stars we committed them to the ocean; though while wrapping the hammock round the body of the last, the effluvia from the rapid putrefaction was so overpowering and nauseous, that it was with difficulty got upon deck and flung into its unfathomable grave. The dull plash of the carcass, as it plunged, I shall never forget, raising lucid circles on the dark unruffled water, and breaking the obstinate silence of the time; it struck my heart with a thrilling chillness; a rush of indescribable feeling came over me. Even now this sepulchral sound strikes at times on my ear during sleep, in its loneliness of horror, and I fancy I am again in the ship. These mournful entombments were viewed by us at last with that unconcern which

is shown by men rendered desperate from circumstances. Disease and dissolution were become every day matters to us, and the fear of death had lost its power; nay, we rather trembled at the thought of surviving; thus does habitude fit us for the most terrible situations.

The last precaution I took was to remove the sick to the deck, under the shelter of a wet sail, to afford them coolness. The next that died was my old townsman Job Watson. Just after I had seen him expire, about ten o'clock in the evening, when all around was like the stillness of a dead world, I was leaning over the taffrail and looking upon the ocean's face, that from its placidity and attraction to the eye was, to me and mine, like an angel of destruction clothed in beauty, when on a sudden I became free from anxiety, obdurate, reckless of everything. I imagined I had taken leave of Hope for ever, and an apathy came upon me little removed from despair. I was ready for my destiny, come when it might. I got rid of a load of anxiety that I could not have carried much longer; so that even when the rising moon showed me the body of the mate, which we had thrown into the water, floating on its back, half disenveloped from its hammock—when I distinctly saw its livid and ghastly features covered only by an inch of transparent sea, and a huge shark preparing his hungry jaws to prey upon it—I drew not back, but kept my eye coldly upon it, as if it had been the most indifferent object upon earth; for I was as insensible to emotion as a statue would have been. This insensibility enabled me to undertake any office

for the sick, and to drag the bodies of the dead to the ship's side and fling them overboard; for at last no one else was left to do it. All, save myself, were attacked with the disorder, and one by one died before the ninth day was completed, save James Robson, the least athletic man I had, and who, judging from constitution, was but little likely to have survived. The disorder left him weak as a child. I gave him the most nourishing things I could find: I carried him, a mere skeleton, into my cabin, and placed him on a fresh bed, flinging his own and all the other beds overboard. I valued him as the only living thing with me in the vessel; though had he died I should at the time have felt little additional pain. I regarded him as one brute animal would have looked at another in such a situation.

How the ship was to be navigated by one man, and what means I possessed of keeping her afloat in case blowing weather should come on, gave me no apprehension: I was too much proof against the fear of the future, or any danger that it might bring. Robson could give me no assistance: I had, therefore, to rely on my own exertions for everything. If the vessel ever moved again, I must hand and steer—though, from the continuance of the calm, it did not seem likely I should be soon called upon to do either. I kept watch at night upon the deck; and could sleep, either by day or night, only by short snatches, extended at full length near the helm. On the tenth night, while the sea was yet in the repose of the grave around me, I fell into a doze, and was assailed with horrible dreams that precluded my receiving

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How the ship was to be navigated by one man, and what means I possessed of keeping her afloat in case blowing weather should come on, gave me no apprehension: I was too much proof against the fear of the future, or any danger that it might bring. Robson could give me no assistance: I had, therefore, to rely on my own exertions for everything. If the vessel ever moved again, I must hand and steer—though, from the continuance of the calm, it did not seem likely I should be soon called upon to do either. I kept watch at night upon the deck; and could sleep, either by day or night, only by short snatches, [illegible] full length near the helm. On the tenth [illegible] the sea was yet in the repose of the [illegible] me, I fell into a doze, and was assailed [illegible] dreams that precluded my receiving

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refreshment from rest. Millions of living things, which had ascended from the caverns of the deep, or been engendered from the stagnation and heat, seemed to play in snaky antics on its surface. I aroused myself, and the silence on every side seemed more terrible than ever. Clouds were rising over the distant sea-line and obscuring the stars; and the ocean put on a gloomy aspect. No sailor was now pacing the deck on his accustomed watch. The want of motion in the ship, and her powerless sails hanging in festoons amid the diminishing starlight, added to the solitary feeling which, in spite of my apathy, I experienced; I thought myself cut off from mankind for ever, and that my ship, beyond where winds ever blew, would lie and rot upon the corrupting sea. I forgot the melancholy fate of my crew at this moment, and thought, with comparative unconcern, that the time must soon come when the last draught of water being finished, "I too must die." The next night, half slumbering, a thousand strange images would come before my sight; the countenance of my late mate, or some one of the crew, was frequently among them, distorted, and fitted upon uncouth bodies. I feft feverish and unwell on awaking. One moment I fancied I saw a vessel pass the ship under full sail, and with a stiff breeze—and then a second: while no ruffle appeared on the ocean near mine, and I hailed them in vain. Now I heard the tramp of feet upon the deck, and the whisper of voices, as of persons walking near me, whom I uselessly challenged: this was followed by the usual obdurate silence. I felt no fear; for Nature had no visitation

for mortal man more appalling than I had already encountered; and to the ultimate of evils with social man, as I have before observed, I was insensible—for what weight could social ideas of good or evil have with me at such a moment?

The morning of the eleventh day of my suffering I went down into the cabin, to take some refreshment to Robson. Though at intervals in the full possession of his senses, the shortest rational conversation exhausted him; while talking in his incoherent fits did not produce the same debilitating effect. "Where is the mate?" he wildly asked me; "Why am I in your cabin, captain?—Have they flung Waring overboard yet?" I contented myself with giving him general answers, which appeared to satisfy him. I feared to tell him we were the only survivors; for the truth had he chanced to comprehend it in its full force, might have been fatal. On returning upon the deck, I observed that clouds were slowly forming, while the air became doubly oppressive and sultry. The intensity of the sun's rays was exchanged for a closer and even more suffocating heat, that indicated an alteration of some kind in the atmosphere. Hope suddenly awoke in my bosom again: a breeze might spring up, and I might get free from my horrible captivity. I took an observation, and found that I was clear of the rocks and shoals of the Bahamas, towards which I feared a current might have insensibly borne me; all I could do, therefore, in case the wind blew, was to hang out a signal of distress, and try to keep the sea until I fell in with some friendly vessel.

I immediately took measures for navigating the ship by myself. I fastened a rope to secure the helm in any position I might find needful, so that I might venture to leave it a few moments when occasion required. I went aloft and cut away the topsails which I could not reef, and reduced the canvass all over the ship as much as possible, leaving only one or two of the lower sails set; for if it blew fresh I could not have taken them in, and the ship might perish; while by doing this I had some chance of keeping her alive.

I now anxiously watched the clouds which seemed to be in motion, and the sight was a cordial to me. At last the sea began to heave with gentle undulations; a slight ripple succeeded, and bore new life with it. I wept for joy, and then laughed, as I saw it shake the sails and gradually fill them; and when at length the brig moved, just at noon on the eleventh day after our becalmment commenced, I became almost mad with delight. It was like a resurrection from the dead; it was the beginning of a new existence with me. Fearful as my state then was in reality, it appeared a heaven to that which I had been in. The hope of deliverance aroused me to new energies. I felt hungry, and ate voraciously; for till that moment I had scarcely eaten enough to sustain life. The chance of once more mingling with my fellow men filled my imagination, and braced every fibre of my frame, almost to breaking. The ship's motion perceptible increased; the ripple under her bow at length became audible; she felt additional impulse, moved yet faster; and at length cut through

the water at the rate of four or five knots an hour. This was fast enough for her safety, though not for my impatience. I steered her large before the wind for some time, and then kept her as near as possible in the track of vessels bound for Europe, certain that, carrying so little sail, I must be speedily overtaken by some ship that could render me assistance. Nor was I disappointed in my expectation. After steering two days with a moderate breeze, during which time I never left the helm, a large West Indiaman came up with me, and gave me every necessary aid. By this means I was enabled to reach Halifax, and finally the river Mersey, about five weeks later than the time I had formerly calculated for my voyage.—*From the Journal of Captain Andrew Smith.*

EASTERN SCENES.

"MEMOIRS of a Babylonian Princess" furnish the following lively sketches. The first scene is the break-up of

A BEDOUIN CAMP.

I HAD not been many weeks in the camp, when the whole tribe were in commotion. I beheld men and women rushing to and fro—shepherds collecting their flocks—camels in constant motion backwards and forwards throughout the encampment; the sadling of horses, and the striking of tents, all showed that we were about to shift our quarters, and go in quest of fresher pastures. While the men were en-

gaged in getting ready their fiery steeds, which filled the air with their neighings, the women were busy in striking the tents, and packing them and the domestic furniture on the backs of the camels destined for this service. Never did I witness so bustling a scene. Every thing was in motion—every soul was busily occupied. Never in my life had I beheld so many beautiful horses at one time. As far as the eye could reach in one direction, they were to be seen prancing, pawing the ground, and neighing in their joy, as though they were conscious that they were about to exchange their exhausted fields for new pastures. The very camels of burden, poor beasts! with mountains of baggage on their backs, seemed to rejoice; while their young ones capered around them, apparently wondering at the apathy of their more sober dames. When the tents had been safely packed, the flocks collected, and all was ready for departure, we set out in the following order:—In the front rode the men, mounted on their high-mettled coursers; a formidable band completely armed, with their long lances gracefully poised, the points of which, raised high in air, glittered and sparkled in the sun. Next in order came the women; the most considerable of whom rode each in a "maharah," a canopy with curtains around it, placed on the back of a dromedary, attended by their slaves and negresses, who were also mounted on camels. I had selected for my own use the tallest camel, that I might the better enjoy the prospect. After the women and their attendants came the baggage-camels, bearing the tents, provisions, and effects of the tribe; and countless flocks, tended by

their shepherds, brought up the rear. In this order we proceeded, halting every two hours to take coffee; and, as we rode along, men accompanied us on foot, loaded with roasted meats, bread, and dates, crying aloud, "He who is hungry, let him approach." Towards evening, we reached the place of our destination, on the banks of the Nahr el Kashoun, a spot abounding in fat pastures, and not far from the Euphrates. Here again was a scene of bustle, similar to that I had witnessed in the morning. Every one applied himself to his duty with alacrity and assiduity; for all were anxious for the grand feast, which our sheikh had announced his intention to give on our arriving at our new quarters. This entertainment was upon a scale worthy of the station of our hospitable entertainer. Seven camels, twenty-five sheep, besides gazelles without number, were slaughtered upon the occasion. After the tents had been pitched, the flocks tended, and the horses stalled and fed with camel's milk, which is supposed by the Bedouins to give them great strength and power of endurance, our table was spread on the grass, close by the river's bank, and the dinner placed before us. Some of the dishes would have made an European open his eyes with wonder; being so large as to require four men to carry them, filled with rice, which looked like mountains, on which were placed lambs or sheep, roasted whole. All these dishes were of a white shining substance, having the appearance of silver, but I did not learn of what metal they were made. There were also huge dishes, each containing a joint of camel's flesh, and others filled with gazelles, my

favourite dish. We had, moreover, a dish called sambusak; which is a mixture of burnt flour, with honey, and butter, enveloped in a crust made square, which is rolled out very thin. The mixture is put in the centre, the four corners are turned over crossways, and the dish is then baked.

As a companion-picture to the foregoing scene, we give

A CARAVAN FROM BAGDAD.

The destination of this caravan was Damascus. For seven or eight months had the company been assembling, and now consisted of a Chaldean Christian bishop and his suite—traders of every class—Persians, Osmanli Turks, and merchants from Bassorah, in all mustering some fifteen thousand camels and horses! The multitude was encamped in a vast plain, about an hour and a half distant from the city:—

The time fixed for our departure was approaching. Our vast encampment teemed with provisions and stores for the journey; every one laying in a supply sufficient for two or three months, as if we had been about to embark on ship-board: for, in truth, the prospect of procuring fresh supplies was not more promising, than in the case of a vessel about to cross the ocean. Camel load after camel load poured into the camp, consisting of flour, biscuit, and rice; besides quantities of "basterma," a kind of sausage, which is dried, and keeps well for a considerable length of time; "kaourma," a preparation of hashed beef or mutton, cooked in grease and crammed into skins, which is dished up, during the journey, with dates and herbs, and makes a very palatable dish; "halawah," a sweet solid substance, composed of the "simsim," described in my account of the ma-

nufactures of Telkef, honey, and other ingredients. In addition to these, piles of carpets, cushions, and bed-clothes were to be seen on every side, together with a prodigious quantity of kitchen utensils of every description. The bishop, the Bassorah lady, and myself, occupied but one tent, which, as usual, was separated in the middle by a curtain, the gentlemen being on one side, and the ladies on the other. Although our caravan was furnished with so great a number of camels, the travellers, including pilgrims, merchants, camel-drivers, attendants, and escort, did not amount to more than five thousand individuals; a very large proportion of the camels being destined to carry merchandise, of which there was an immense quantity. Besides this, no inconsiderable number were required for the purpose of conveying tents, baggage, and provisions of the travellers. My fellow-traveller, the bishop, had five camels for his own use and that of his attendants. I had the same number; but our companion from Bassorah had no fewer than fifteen, for the use of herself, children, and servants. It must not be supposed that these camels were the property of the individual travellers. There is a class of men who gain their livelihood by letting out these animals for hire, with whom a bargain is made by the persons about to proceed on a journey, at a certain price; the proprietor of the camels undertaking to load, unload, and feed them during the whole time besides providing drivers to attend them. I think I paid at the rate of about three hundred piastres for each camel; and this included everything, so that I had no further trouble about the

matter. Every morning at day-break I found my beasts all loaded, and one saddled for my own personal service; and certainly, nothing could exceed the assiduity and punctuality with which the duties connected with this service were performed in every particular. Besides my little troop of camels, I had a horse for riding, which enabled me to vary the slow monotonous pace of the caravan with an occasional gallop over the desert. This horse I often lent to my reverend companion, who was very grateful for the trifling attention. At last the day of departure arrived, and at early dawn we set out on our long march, leaving behind us a sorrowing crowd of the friends and relations of our fellow-travellers, who stood gazing at our almost interminable file of animated beings, as it struggled along with tardy pace, looking like a gigantic snake writhing its way over the wide-stretching plain before it—mingling benedictions and prayers for our safety with their parting tears. Onward the living mass bent its course; the camels, with grave demeanour, like well-drilled soldiers, keeping their file with a strictness which would win the approbation of even a European drill-serjeant; those destined to carry the travellers having strapped on their backs maharahs of every colour, from lively red to deep purple, from emerald green to deep blue, each holding six persons, and presenting the appearance of a moving city of brilliant coloured houses. The escort of cavalry furnished by the Pasha of Bagdad, who were nearly all Georgians, and afforded a striking contrast, by the fairness of their complexions, with the swarthy visaged mul-

A CARAVAN FROM BAGDAD page 177.

titude with whose protection they were charged, rode before and behind. The camel-drivers walked by the side of their charge, and the whole caravan—composed of this motley group of baggage camels, riding camels, camels laden with merchandise, horses, cavalry, pilgrims, rich and poor, some mounted on camels, and others, less fortunate, walking on foot, drivers, slaves, flocks of sheep, with their owners, who had joined the caravan for the purpose of selling them to the travellers in the course of the journey, and, if I recollect rightly, a few bullocks; forming a line, not less I am sure than a mile in length, proceeded continually onward for ten hours, when a halt was made. During our march we aroused whole herds of gazelles, who fled in all directions, in great trepidation, over the plain. The rapidity with which the camels were unladen and the tents pitched is perfectly incredible. In less than half an hour a vast city of tents arises, as if by the touch of an enchanter's wand; and while the inexperienced traveller surveys with wonder and admiration the erection of a spacious square on his right, he suddenly casts his eyes to the left and finds that a long lane of tents has sprung up, as it were, out of the bowels of the earth. The city, if I may so call it, being thus built, a rampart is forthwith cast up around it, by placing the camels (which had been fed with date kernels), with their pack-saddles, in a circle, on the outer verge of the encampment; precautions are then taken to guard the caravan from sudden attack, and the travellers begin to think about their supper. The travelling butchers were now all on the alert, and pur-

chases were making in all directions. Sheep were slaughtered, and everybody purchased according to his wants, the price paid being about five or six paras for the ratal, or five pounds for five farthings. The purchase being made, no time was lost in preparing the meat for table, the cooks fully equalling the tent builders in expertness and rapidity. Fires were made on the ground, and immediately the air was filled with those acceptable hissing sounds which, after, a long fast, are sweeter music than the voice of his mistress to the sighing lover, and upon hearing which the sternest visage puts on a momentary gleam of benignity. Before the door of each tent, slaves were seen busily engaged in spreading the large white cloths upon the bare ground; and it was not long before every cloth was surrounded by a company evidently fully disposed to devote themselves seriously to the business in hand. Before half an hour had passed away, whole sheep had disappeared, and lofty mountains of rice had been laid low; and when the company had had their fill, the servants were permitted to regale themselves on the remains, of which there was an abundance. Our party consisted of twelve, every one of whom appeared bent upon promoting the common comfort. After supper, we remained engaged in converse until eleven o'clock, before which hour it was idle to think of retiring to rest, for the incessant loud laughter, shouts, and clamour of the Georgian guard, calling to each other all over the encampment, made sleep entirely out of the question. At eleven, however, we spread our carpets and lay down to sleep.

DEPARTURE OF THE MECCA CARAVAN.

For a month before the departure, the streets of Damascus are crowded with wanderers from the Black, the Caspian, and the Aral Seas—from the bracing breezes of the Caucasus, the pestilential vapours of the Oxus, and the still remoter regions of Samarcand. Religious motives weigh with many, but not with all. Commerce with its excitements and advantages gives an impetus to the Hadge; but for which it might, long ere this have fallen into partial desuetude, and been placed in the category of duties, as being inconsistent with the extension of Islamism to new climes, and places unknown to the prophet even by name. The daggers of Khorassan are exchanged for the silks of Damascus. The camel that carries to Mecca the rice for the southward journey, returns with the coffee of Mocha. In the Hedjaz horses are scarce and dear, camels are plentiful and cheap. The humbler Hadgi rides to Mecca a horse which he sells for the double of the purchase-money, and returns back on a camel, which he has bought for three hundred piastres, and sells in the Median for a thousand. In Damascus such was the traffic, that it put one in mind of a Leipsic Fair. The gold gazzi, the legal value of which is twenty one piastres, rose to twenty-five, but when the Hadge were gone, rapidly fell again.

The duties of hospitality to the hadgis are incumbent on the Damascenes, without being grievous or burdensome; for the host has a right to two and a half per cent. on all that the pilgrim, his guest, buys or

sells. The wealthier merchants are usually the Persians.

The first proceeding after the arrival of the Aleppo caravan, is to hold a divan, which is attended by the Pasha, and the chiefs of the caravan and the town, for the purpose of hiring camels. This is no trifling affair, for, besides four thousand horses, the Hadge requires eight thousand camels. The ceremonies previous to the departure of the Hadgi commenced on a Wednesday. At the *Asr* or hour of afternoon prayer, the green banner of the Prophet was conveyed from the old castle to the mosque of the Sangiacdar, and thence, after prayer, to the seraglio. Achmed Pasha, on the approach of the banner, descended the steps, divested himself of his shoes, and advancing, received from the Sangiacdar, the sacred emblem. Having kissed the banner, he carried it on his shoulder up the steps, while the cannon roared a salute.

On the following day, the caravan took its departure with great pomp, the sight of which in the magniloquent language of the country, was enough to burst the gall-bladder of a lion. Sooth to say, the interest of the scene was derived from its thoroughly oriental character, and the absence of every object that could remind one of the west, except the surtouts and trowsers of the Emir-el-Hadge and his attendants. The town was astir by daybreak. The thoroughfares leading to the Median were thronged with spectators in their holiday clothes, and encumbered with camels receiving their loads of provender, or gay litters and their tenants. Some pilgrims

wept a farewell; but the loud exclamations of others, showed that the religious end of their journey was forgotten in the bustle and impatience of its commencement.

From eight until eleven o'clock the street presented one unbroken line of loaded camels and irregular cavalry, which with difficulty threaded its way,—the roofs of the houses and mumerous mosques being as crowded as the pavement below. In fact, never did I see the sombre features of a Damascene street so gaily relaxed. Water is the *summum bonum* in the East. Ever and anon came a group of water-carriers, on the shoulders of whom stood a Sheikh, supporting himself by leaning on long poles held up to his service. Artillery drawn by camels in pairs, unused to any exertion but that of bearing heavy burdens, and as impatient of draught as of working in pairs, alternately amused and terrified the spectators with their uncouth restiveness and fearful zigzag motions, so different from their accustomed stately measured pace. Troops of Kurds, the Cossacks of Turkey, with their formidable lances, barbarous but picturesque accoutrements and caparisons, followed the artillery.—*The Modern Syrians.*

THE WHIRLPOOL OF NIAGARA.

THE river, which has gradually contracted its channel very much, after passing the great white sheet of the American Fall, proceeds in a curved form towards the north-west; and after falling over tremendous rapids, suddenly turns at right angles to its former course, and runs towards the north-east, still hemmed in by the precipice, which now increases in altitude. Here it has scooped out a vast basin in the rocks, of a circular form; and the rushing and roaring waters, entering the narrow gorge from the south-east, strike by their impetus with such force on the perpendicular wall of the opposite gorge, that an under-current is immediately created, and the waters whirl in a dizzy vortex, until they find egress towards the north-east, between the precipitous walls of the chasm. As the rock is very lofty here (between two and three hundred feet), the view from above is so distant, that very little but the faint whirling or concentrically enlarging circles of the water can be traced; for the largest trunks of trees which are spinning in its eddies seem there no bigger than sticks. It is from below that the curious visitant must see the effect. But the descent is dangerous from the vicinity of the Table Rock, and it is necessary to go back about a mile on the road, and ask permission to cross a farmer's grounds, where there is a path more accessible. Here, after crossing a field or two, you enter into a beautiful wood, and, going through it for a quarter of a mile, begin to de-

scend by a narrow, obscure, and winding path, cut out of the mountain, which is covered with the primæval forest. The descent is not very difficult, perfectly safe, and with a little expense would be pleasant. It leads to the centre of the bay-coast of the whirlpool, where there are but few rocks, and a narrow shingle beach. Here you see the vastness of the scene, the great expanse of the circular basin, the mass of mountain which encloses it almost to its very edge, and the overhanging Table Rock, nearly like that at the Falls, and probably produced by a similar cause, the disintegration of the slate beds under the more unyielding limestone. So extensive, however, is the surface of water, that the huge trunks of trees floating in the concentric circles of the whirling waters, when they reach their ultimate doom in the actual vortex, appear still not larger than small logs. They revolve for a great length of time, touching the shores in their extreme gyrations, and then, as the circles narrow, are tossed about with increasing rapidity, until, in the middle, the largest giants of the forest are lifted perpendicularly, and appear to be sucked under after a time altogether. A singular part of the view is the very sharp angle of the precipice, and its bank of *débris* on the American side. You also just catch a view of the foaming rapid on the right; and an attentive observer will perceive, that in the centre of the vast basin of the whirlpool the water is several feet higher than at the edges, appearing to boil up from the bottom. . . It is said that timber and logs coming over the rapids from the Falls are detained, sometimes for months,

before they are finally engulfed in the whirlpool, and doubtless it is never free from them; and perhaps there may be occasionally a counteracting current from the furious winds which rage in the chasm, or other causes, to prevent their approach to the centre; and in this way those who have escaped, have escaped merely because they were only tossed about in the outer rings of the whirl, and never approached its tremendous centre, from which, I conceive, by an under current, the water escapes to the gorge below, and from which, when once involved, nothing could possibly emerge; as the very boiling up of the waters, and the tremendous force exerted there on the trees and logs, evince. The visit to the shores of the whirlpool may be attended with the gratification of another kind of curiosity to the naturalist, for he may there see the rattlesnake in his native horrors. The boy who went with me as a guide endeavoured to find a den or cleft in which this tremendous reptile might be lying, but he was unsuccessful, although they are frequently seen and killed there, being, after all, fortunately sluggish and inactive. We saw other snakes, but not the dreaded one.—*Bonnycastle's Canadas in* 1841.

BEAR-HUNTING IN TENNESSEE.

In the Life of Colonel Crockett, the backwoodsman, there are some curious anecdotes of bear-hunting, at which this extraordinary man appears to be a complete adept. The colonel was residing in 1825, when about thirty-nine years of age, on the Obian River, in the wilder parts of Tennessee, where bears were still to be found in considerable numbers. In the autumn of that year, he had killed and salted as many as were necessary for the support of his family during the winter; "but about this time," says he, in his own narrative, "one of my old neighbours, who had settled down on the lake about twenty-five miles from me, came to my house, and told me he wanted me to go down and kill some bears about in his parts. He said they were extremely fat, and very plenty. I went home with him, and then went on down towards the Mississippi, and commenced hunting.

We were out two weeks, and in that time killed fifteen bears. Having now supplied my friend with plenty of meat, I engaged occasionally again with my hands in our boat-building, and getting staves. But I at length couldn't stand it any longer without another hunt. So I concluded to take my little son, and cross over the lake, and take a hunt there. We had just finished our breakfast, when a company of hunters came to our camp, who had fourteen dogs, but all in poor condition. I told them their dogs couldn't run in smell of a bear, and they had better stay at my camp, and feed them on the bones I had cut out of my meat. I left them there, and cut out; but I hadn't gone far, when my dogs took a first-rate start after a very large fat old *he-bear*, which ran right plump towards my camp. I pursued on, but my other hunters had heard my dogs coming, and met them, and killed the bear before I got up with him. I gave him to them, and cut out again for a creek called Big Clover. Just as I got there, and was entering a cane-brake, my dogs all broke and went

a-head, and in little time they raised a fuss in the cane, and seemed to be going every way. I listened a while, and found my dogs were in two companies, and that both were in a snorting fight. I sent my little son to one, and I broke for t'other. I got to mine first, and found my dogs had a two-year-old bear, down a-wooling away on him; so I just took out my big butcher, and went up and slap'd it into him, and killed him without shooting. There were five of the dogs in my company. In a short time I heard my little son fire at his bear; when I went to him, he had killed it too. He had two dogs in his team. Just at this moment we heard my other dog barking a short distance off, and all the rest immediately broke to him. We pushed on too, and when we got there, we found he had still a larger bear than either of them we had killed, tree'd by himself. We killed that one also, which made three we had killed in less than half an hour. We then started to hunt for water and a good place to camp. But we had no sooner started, than our dogs took a start after another one, and away they went like a thunder-gust, and were out of hearing in a minute. We followed the way they had gone for some time, but at length we gave up the hope of finding them, and turned back. As we were going back, I came to where a poor fellow was grubbing, and he looked like the very picture of hard times. I asked him what he was doing away there in the woods by himself. He said he was grubbing for a man who intended to settle there; and the reason why he did it was, that he had no meat for his family, and he was working for a little.

I was mighty sorry for the poor fellow, for it was not only a hard, but a very slow way to get meat for a hungry family; so I told him if he would go with me, I would give him more meat than he could get by grubbing in a month. I intended to supply him with meat, and also to get him to assist my little boy in packing in and salting up my bears. He had never seen a bear killed in his life. I told him I had six killed then, and my dogs were hard after another. He went off to his little cabin, which was a short distance in the brush, and his wife was very anxious he should go with me. So we started, and went to where I had left my three bears, and made a camp. We then gathered my meat, and salted and scaffolded it, as I had done the other. Night now came on, but no word from my dogs yet. I afterwards found they had tree'd the bear about five miles off, near to a man's house, and had barked at it the whole enduring night. Poor fellows! many a time they looked for me, and wondered why I did'nt come, for they know'd there was no mistake in me, and I know'd they were as good as ever fluttered. In the morning, as soon as it was light enough to see, the man took his gun and went to them, and shot the bear, and killed it. My dogs came early in the morning back to me.

We got our breakfast, and cut out again; and we killed four large and very fat bears that day. We hunted out the week, and in that time we killed seventeen, all of them first-rate. When we closed our hunt, I gave the man over a thousand weight of fine fat bear-meat, which pleased him mightily, and made him feel as rich as a Jew. I saw him the next

fall, and he told me he had plenty of meat to do him the whole year from his week's hunt.

When I got home, one of my neighbours was out of meat, and wanted me to go back, and let him go with me, to take another hunt. I couldn't refuse; but I told him I was afraid the bears had taken to house by that time, for after they get very fat in the fall and early part of the winter, they go into their holes, in large hollow trees, or into hollow logs, or their cane-houses, or the harricans, and lie there till spring, like frozen snakes. And one thing about this will seem mighty strange to many people. From about the first of January to about the last of April, these varmints lie in their holes altogether. In all that time they have no food to eat; and yet when they come out, they are not an ounce lighter than when they went to house. I don't know the cause of this, but still I know it is a fact; and I leave it for others who have more learning than myself to account for it. They have not a particle of food with them, but they just lie and suck the bottom of their paw all the time. I have killed many of them in their trees, which enables me to speak positively on this subject. However, my neighbour, whose name was M'Daniel, and my little son and me, went on down to the lake to my second camp, where I had killed my seventeen bears the week before, and turned out to hunting. But we hunted hard all day without getting a single start. We had carried but little provisions with us, and the next morning were entirely out of meat. I sent my son about three miles, off to the house of an old friend, to get some. The old

gentleman was much pleased to hear I was hunting in those parts, for the year before the bears had killed a great many of his hogs. He was that day killing his bacon hogs, and so he gave my son some meat, and sent word to me that I must come into his house that evening, that he would have plenty of feed for my dogs, and some accommodations for ourselves; but before my son got back, we had gone out hunting, and in a large cane-brake my dogs found a big bear in a cane-house, which he had fixed for his winter quarters, as they sometimes do.

When my lead dog found him, and raised the yell, all the rest broke to him, but none of them entered his house until we got up. I encouraged my dogs; and they know'd me so well, that I could have made them seize the old serpent himself, with all his horns and heads, and cloven foot and ugliness into the bargain, if he would only have come to light, so that they could have seen him. They bulged in, and in an instant the bear followed them out, and I told my friend to shoot him, as he was mighty wrathy to kill a bear. He did so, and killed him prime. We carried him to our camp, by which time my son had returned; and after we got our dinners, we packed up, and cut for the house of my old friend, whose name was Davidson.

In the morning I left my son at the camp, and we started on towards the harricane, where we expected to find a heap of bears in the fallen timber; and when we had went about a mile, we started a very large bear, but we got along mighty slow, on account of the cracks in the earth occasioned by the earthquakes.

We, however, made out to keep in hearing of the dogs for about three miles, and then we came to the harricane. Here we had to quit our horses, as it was difficult to get through with them. By this time several of my dogs had got tired and come back; but we went ahead on foot for some little time in the harricane, when we met a bear coming straight to us, and not more than twenty or thirty yards off. I started my tired dogs after him, and M'Daniel pursued them, and I went on to where my other dogs were. I had seen the track of the bear they were after, and I know'd he was a screamer. I followed on to about the middle of the harricane; but my dogs pursued him so close, that they made him climb an old stump about twenty feet high. I got in shooting distance of him and fired, but I was all over in such a flutter from fatigue and running, that I couldn't hold steady; but, however, I broke his shoulder, and he fell. I ran up and loaded my gun as quick as possible, and shot him again, and killed him. When I went to take out my knife to butcher him, I found I had lost it in coming through the harricane. The vines and briars were so thick that I would sometimes have to get down and crawl like a varmint to get through at all; and a vine had as I supposed, caught in the handle and pulled it out. While I was standing and studying what to do, my friend came to me. He had followed my trail through the harricane, and had found my knife, which was mighty good news to me, as a hunter hates the worst in the world to lose a good dog, or any part of his hunting-tools. I now left M'Daniel to butcher the bear, and I went

after our horses, and brought them as near as the nature of the case would allow. I then took our bags, and went back to where he was; and when we had skinned the bear, we fleeced off the fat, and carried it to our horses at several loads. We then packed it up on our horses, and had a heavy pack of it on each one. We now started, and went on till about sunset, when I concluded we must be near our camp; so I hollered, and my son answered me, and we moved on in the direction to the camp. We had gone but a little way when I heard my dogs make a warm start again; and I jumped down from my horse, and gave him up to my friend, and told him I would follow them. He went on to the camp, and I went ahead after my dogs with all my might for a considerable distance, till at last night came on. The woods were very rough and hilly, and all covered over with cane.

I now was compelled to move on more slowly, and was frequently falling over logs, and into the cracks made by the earthquakes, so that I was very much afraid I would break my gun. However, I went on about three miles, when I came to a good big creek, which I waded. It was very cold, and the creek was about knee deep; but I felt no great inconvenience from it just then, as I was all over wet with sweat from running, and I felt hot enough. After I got over this creek and out of the cane, which was very thick on all our creeks, I listened for my dogs. I found they had either tree'd or brought the bear to a stop, as they continued barking in the same place. I pushed on as near in the direction to the noise, as

I could, till I found the hill was too steep for me to climb, and so I backed and went down the creek some distance, till I came to a hollow, and then took up that, till I came to a place where I could climb up the hill. It was mighty dark, and was difficult to see my way or anything else. When I got up the hill, I found I had passed the dogs; and so I turned and went to them. I found, when I got there, they had tree'd the bear in a large forked poplar, and it was setting in the fork.

I could see the lump, but not plain enough to shoot with any certainty, as there was no moonlight; and so I set in to hunting for some dry brush to make me a light; but I could find none, though I could find that the ground was torn mightily to pieces by the cracks.

At last I thought I could shoot by guess, and kill him; so I pointed as near the lump as I could, and fired away. But the bear didn't come; he only clomb up higher, and got out on a limb, which helped me to see him better. I now loaded up again and fired, but this time he didn't move at all. I commenced loading for a third fire, but the first thing I know'd, the bear was down among my dogs, and they were fighting all around me. I had my big butcher in my belt, and I had a pair of dressed buckskin breeches on. So I took out my knife, and stood, determined, if he should get hold of me, to defend myself in the best way I could. I stood there for some time, and could now and then see a white dog I had, but the rest of them, and the bear, which were dark coloured, I couldn't see at all, it was so

miserable dark. They still fought around me, and sometimes within three feet of me; but at last the bear got down into one of the cracks that the earthquakes had made in the ground, about four feet deep, and I could tell the biting end of him by the hollering of my dogs. So I took my gun and pushed the muzzle of it about, till I thought I had it against the main part of his body, and fired; but it happened to be only the fleshy part of his foreleg. With this he jumped out of the crack, and he and the dogs had another hard fight around me, as before. At last, however, they forced him back into the crack again, as he was when I had shot.

I had laid down my gun in the dark, and I now began to hunt for it; and, while hunting, I got hold of a pole, and I concluded I would punch him a while with that. I did so, and when I would punch him, the dogs would jump in on him, when he would bite them badly, and they would jump out again. I concluded, as he would take punching so patiently, it might be that he would lie still enough for me to get down in the crack, and feel slowly along till I could find the right place to give him a dig with my butcher. So I got down, and my dogs got in before him and kept his head towards them, till I got along easily up to him; and placing my hand on his rump, felt for his shoulder, just behind which I intended to stick him. I made a lounge with my long knife, and fortunately stuck him right through the heart; at which he just sank down, and I crawled out in a hurry. In a little time my dogs all came out too, and seemed satisfied, which was the way they

always had of telling me that they had finished him.

I suffered very much that night with cold, as my leather breeches, and everything else I had on, was wet and frozen. But I managed to get my bear out of this crack after several hard trials, and so I butchered him, and laid down to try to sleep. But my fire was very bad, and I couldn't find anything that would burn well to make it any better; and I concluded I should freeze, if I didn't warm myself in some way by exercise. So I got up, and hollered a while, and then I would just jump up and down with all my might, and throw myself into all sorts of motions. But all this wouldn't do; for my blood was now getting cold, and the chills coming all over me. I was so tired, too, that I could hardly walk; but I thought I would do the best I could to save my life, and then, if I died, nobody would be to blame. So I went to a tree about two feet through, and not a limb on it for thirty feet, and I would climb up to the limbs, and then lock my arms together around it, and slide down to the bottom again. This would make the inside of my legs and arms feel mighty warm and good. I continued this till daylight in the morning, and how often I clomb up my tree and slid down, I don't know, but I reckon at least a hundred times.

In the morning I got my bear hung up so as to be safe, and then set out to hunt for my camp. I found it after a while, and M'Daniel and my son were very much rejoiced to see me get back, for they were about to give me up for lost. We got our breakfasts,

and then secured our meat by building a high scaffold, and covering it over. We had no fear of its spoiling, for the weather was so cold that it couldn't.

The next morning we entered the harricane again, and in little or no time my dogs were in full cry. We pursued them, and soon came to a thick cane-brake, in which they had stop'd their bear. We got up close to him, as the cane was so thick that we couldn't see more than a few feet. Here I made my friend hold the cane a little open with his gun till I shot the bear, which was a mighty large one. I killed him dead in his tracks. We got him out and butchered him, and in a little time started another and killed him, which now made *ten* we had killed; and we know'd we couldn't pack any more home, as we had only five horses along; therefore we returned to the camp, and salted up all our meat, to be ready for a start homewards next morning.

The morning came and we packed our horses with the meat, and had as much as they could possibly carry, and sure enough cut out for home. It was about thirty miles, and we reached home the second day. I had now accommodated my neighbour with meat enough to do him, and had killed in all, up to that time, fifty-eight bears, during the fall and winter. As soon as the time came for them to quit their houses and come out again in the spring, I took a notion to hunt a little more, and in about one month I killed forty-seven more, which made one hundred and five bears I had killed in less than one year from that time.

SHIPWRECK OF THE DELPHINE.

THE subjoined, though perhaps less characterised by startling occurrences than many other narratives of a similar nature, may yet possess some claims to our attention from the successful issue of the persevering efforts adopted for the safety of the isolated victims of calamity. The painful interest attaching to events of this nature, is increased in the present instance from its having taken place in the same region as the shipwreck of the Wager, one of Anson's squadron, of whose wreck so interesting an account has been left by the ancestor of the poet Byron. The peninsula of Tres Montes, mentioned in the following translation, is the same over which, it may be remembered, Byron and his companions passed with their Indian guides. All the travellers who have visited that part of America agree in their description of the climate, which is bad in the extreme. Everything is always wet: there are scarcely ten days in a year on which snow or rain does not fall; and not more than thirty on which it does not blow with the greatest violence. The island of Chiloe is situated in a great bay at the southern extremity of Chili, and is the largest of a group the number of which, comprehending those of Chonos, is eighty-two. With these remarks, which were necessary for the proper understanding of what is to follow, we proceed at once to the narration.

WE sailed from Havre for Valparaiso on the 30th March 1840, in the ship Delphine, Captain Coisy, with a crew of sixteen sailors and four passengers. In three days we were clear of the channel, and, the wind being favourable, saw the Canaries and Cape de Verd Islands, and soon after crossed the line. In short, at the expiration of thirty days from the time of our departure, we had reached the latitude of Rio Janeiro. The wind then became contrary, and, forcing us to lie to, so retarded our progress, that we did not arrive in the latitude of the Falkland Islands until the 28th May. On the 30th we saw Staten Island, and on the 9th June Cape Horn and Terra del Fuego. In spite of the usual stormy weather of this region, and the enormous masses of floating ice which

we encountered in all directions, we doubled the Diego Islands on the 11th. The bad weather still continued: but on the next day a short interval of brightness enabled us to take an observation, for the last time, as it proved, on board the Delphine. The wind then veered round to the south, and we believed ourselves sure of a speedy termination to the voyage, when, without any warning, it chopped round to the north-east, bringing its attendant fog. We were steering our course by computation, when in the night of the 19th, a few hours before daylight, we were suddenly awoke by the frightful grinding of the ship's keel upon the rocks. "Land, land!" cried out the second mate; and in an instant every one, crew and passengers, was on the deck. On all sides the vessel was surrounded by rocks and breakers, while through the gloom the outline of high land was visible at a distance, exaggerated by the obscurity, and adding to the terrors of the moment, which it would be difficult to describe. The ship was yet afloat, but the shock had been too severe to leave any hope that she would continue to swim: every instant we feared she was sinking under us. The passengers ran to the pumps, and the crew, by orders of the captain, flew to the rigging. The pumps were soon dry, when, on hastening to the tiller, we found to our consternation that the rudder had been carried away. The ship struck again. We braced the yards round, to allow her to drift off the land, and cut the lashings which held the long-boat and yawl to the deck, during which time the grinding of the keel on the rocks became more violent than before,

threatening the entire destruction of the vessel. We let go the best bower, in the hope of keeping her from drifting farther in; but the anchor dragged over the smooth rocky bottom. The water gained on us so fast, that we hastened to get the long-boat overboard; a work of great difficulty, as it dashed against the bulwarks with every roll of the ship, and endangered the lives of the men. At length we succeeded in getting her afloat; and, throwing in some provisions, we all jumped in, followed by the captain, who was the last to leave the deck. It was then five o'clock. and we waited for daylight among the rocks and sea-wrack, watching the ship, which at last struck on some rocks surrounding a small island. At day-break we perceived a bay, towards which we rowed, and landed ourselves and the provisions on a sandy beach. The captain, with the sailors, returned immediately to the ship, to save, if possible a greater quantity of provisions, and other matters necessary to our existence. They found her quite fast about half a mile from the place of our landing; all the between decks full of water, with the exception of the stern. They returned to the shore three hours afterwards, bringing the yawl, both boats laden with everything they could lay their hands on. A temporary tent was hastily set up, in the centre of which a great fire was lighted; round this we spread some sail-cloth saved from the cargo, which served us for beds during the night. The two following days were passed in saving more provisions from the wreck, while a party who remained on shore got up another tent with the fore-sail, that had been brought for the

purpose. A few days afterwards, a violent squall drove the long-boat on the rocks and staved her in, which obliged us to haul her on shore, to prevent her entire loss.

A fortnight passed in this manner, the yawl replacing the long-boat in our visits to the ship, when the weather would permit. The captain took an observation, from which we learned that our position was in 49° south latitude, upon an island two leagues in length, separated by a narrow channel from the great island of Campana, as we ascertained from the English chart which the captain had taken the precaution to save, with his sextant and two compasses, on the first day of the wreck. Everything conspired, unfortunately, to render a long abode in this dreary region inevitable—the winter just commenced, the continued northerly winds of the season, and the distance which separated us from any settlement of Europeans. We calculated that our stock of biscuits and flour would last nearly four months, and determined that our wisest course would be to wait until the bad season was over, before venturing to seek for assistance in the long-boat, which by that time, as was proposed, would be repaired and decked in.

The captain did not forget that, in our present circumstances, the preservation of the health of the men from the inclemency of the climate was the first duty. Another tent was built with the mainsail, of greater dimensions than the former, in which the beds were so arranged as to be at some distance above the surface of the ground. The spot fixed on for the erection was the entrance of a wood which over-

looked the whole bay, and in the first days of July* we took possession. The old tent was left standing, in which, although the materials at our disposal were very scanty, we managed to build an oven.

Certain unequivocal indications had led us to believe that the island was occasionally visited by savages. We had seen in different places a rude kind of hut, constructed of branches of trees, in which we found the remains of shell-fish and the bones of animals. Shortly after we entered on our new habitation, the captain's dog, which had been saved along with us, growled all night in spite of our efforts to pacify him. We were all on the alert the next morning on learning that the prints of naked feet had been seen on the sand: none of our party went barefoot, and the traces were those of persons running from the wood where our tent was situated. This circumstance led us to suspect that we were watched; and indeed, on the 9th July, while our party had gone on the usual salvage trip to the wreck, one of the passengers who had wandered to a distance returned hastily, telling us he had seen the savages. We armed ourselves immediately with all the offensive weapons within reach; and the captain, having advanced with a few men, soon came in sight of what he was in search of. There were nine of them, unarmed, their only clothing being the skin of a seal hanging over their back. At first they hesitated to move; but seeing that we approached with friendly demonstrations, they became familiar. We gave

* A winter month answering to the January of Europe.

them some presents; but prevented their going to our tent, which they seemed greatly to desire. After staying a short time they left us, but soon repeated their visit, bringing with them their wives, whose clothing did not differ from that of the men. Subsequently, we permitted them to enter our tent, and went several times to visit them upon the different islands to which they transport themselves in canoes. Their huts were similar to those we had seen in our island, but were covered with skins. These savages are generally of middling height, strong and well formed. They are evidently the same race as the Indians of Chiloe, and are always accompanied by great packs of dogs, which they use for hunting seals, on whose flesh, with occasional supplies of shell-fish, they principally subsist. This food, however, often fails them in rough weather, when their canoes cannot put to sea. In their visits to us they were always asking for food, which was most probably their principal object; at the same time they often stole some of our things without being detected. In short, they appeared to us to be very miserable, and lazy to excess. The wreck of the Delphine was a fortunate event for them, as they picked up many articles floating about among the rocks.

During the earlier period of our residence on the island our time passed in a very uniform manner. The shore party provided wood for the fire, of which, the consumption was indispensably great, on account of the continued rainy weather, and for the prevention of sickness. Another party was regularly employed with the yawl in saving things from the

wreck. Our young lieutenant, Lepine, took charge of this laborious duty, and, by his zeal and activity, sustained the courage of the sailors both on the ship or among the islands after she was broken up. Meantime the month of September drew on. The carpenter had finished the repairs of the long-boat, which was covered with a deck, and rigged as a schooner, as well as was possible in our state of privation. Although the weather remained unseasonable, we always hoped it would change for the better. The captain, however, resolved on putting his project into immediate execution—to sail with a few men for San Carlos of Chiloe, to seek the means of rescuing the whole party from their perilous situation. The necessary preparations were made in consequence, and on Tuesday the 3d September our little vessel was launched, in order to be ready for the first favourable wind. But what was our disappointment when we saw that she filled with water before our eyes. We tried at first to stop the leaks while she was afloat; but this being impossible, we were compelled to haul her again on shore, where we took away a portion of the lining, and carefully examined the seams, and then caulked and stopped every chink by which it was possible the water could enter; and on Saturday evening, at high water, she was again launched. The next day we found her again half full of water; for her timbers were old and crazy. The captain, however, persisted in his resolution, and gave orders for her to be baled out—replying to those who expressed uneasiness that the wood would swell up with the water. A quantity of sail-cloth was used

for ballast, which at the same time served for beds, although, in order to prevent their complete soaking, the baling was kept up incessantly. The provisions, calculated for eight days, with wine and spirits, were put on board; and a generous allowance of wine was given at dinner to the master and four men who were selected to accompany the captain and Lieutenant Lepine. At two in the afternoon they set sail, with fine weather and a stiff breeze from the south.

Seven of our number had left us; thirteen remained behind. We watched for a long time, from the the top of the cliffs and rocks, the departure of our companions in misfortune, on whom our fate depended. The day was far advanced when we lost sight of them, and we returned to our tent with a feeling of sadness, justified by our actual position; for, leaving out of sight the probability of the loss of those who had gone away—an event but too possible—how much was there, in our own position on the island, to give cause for uneasiness. Was it not to be feared that the savages, who, until then, had been inoffensive, would become emboldened on seeing our diminished number; and that their greediness, or possibly want alone, might lead them to attack us, and take by force our little remaining provisions, as well as other things in our possession which had excited their cupidity? These reflections, however, were soon banished by the majority of our little band. Those who had drunk farewell to their companions in a pitcher of wine, were not sorry to drink a few more bumpers to their prosperous voyage: con-

viviality, in short, was the prevailing feature of the moment, when an unexpected incident drew us all out of the tent. A small hut, built of wood and moss by one of the sailors and a passenger, not far from our tent, had taken fire, and was nearly consumed, with all its contents, before we could succeed in putting it out. This event finished the day, and each one threw himself, dispirited and melancholy, on what was called his bed.

Next day, nothing else was thought of but what was best for us to do under our present circumstances. Just before the departure of the long-boat, the daily ration for each man was eight ounces of biscuit. At this rate our stock would not last more than three weeks, and we could not expect to be released at least before a month. We therefore reduced our allowance to six ounces, and of wine one quart a-day. We had a great quantity of spirits, and were thus enabled to continue the usual allowance to the sailors. In this way we hoped to go on for more than a month. The savages came to visit us as before, and soon saw our diminished strength; but their demeanour towards us did not alter. The first thing they did whenever they landed was to come and warm themselves at our fire, so that we were careful to leave some one to keep guard when we went out to fish.

The month of September went by; our biscuit diminished rapidly; we reduced the ration to four ounces a-day. Towards the middle of the first week of October we began to feel uneasy. We remembered that, on the third day after our companions sailed, a heavy gale had set in. Was it not to be

feared that they had perished? And, without taking the worst view, it was still possible that the captain might not find the expected succour at Chiloe. In this case, as our abode on the island would be lengthened, we decided on another reduction of our ration of biscuit to two ounces; just sufficient for a daily sop. We succeeded in making the savages understand that, if they brought us food, we would repay them with the things they most desired; from which time they began to bring us the eggs of sea-fowl. Thus we went on until the middle of October, the sixth week since the long-boat sailed. Our anxieties now augmented, and many of us began to think of the means for our own rescue.

We had already, as a precautionary measure, collected the planks and pieces of wood of the shattered vessel. The idea occurred to us of constructing a boat capable of carrying the whole party, and we recommended to those who went out fishing to bring in the masts, yards, planks, or other portions of the wreck which they might find floating. By this means a great quantity of materials was collected; and the carpenter began to work upon the keel, which was thirty feet long.

On the 15th October our little ration of two ounces of biscuit failed us entirely, and we were reduced to the indifferent shell-fish, and the eggs—which were almost always addled when the savages brought them to us—and to some birds which we occasionally killed. We wished the natives to bring us some of the flesh of the sea-wolf, which we had seen them eat; but whether the season was unfavourable, or they

caught no more than sufficient for themselves, we could never obtain any. They gave us some dogs, and appeared greatly astonished when they saw that we had eaten them; for, notwithstanding the repugnance of some among us to eat dogs' flesh, our hunger was so great that we devoured them all. At the end of October we had ceased to hope, except in ourselves. Some of us were always occupied in seeking for wood or food; while the others were as persevering in their labours on the vessel, which went on very slowly, as much from the weakness to which our privations had reduced us, as from the bad weather which often prevented our working, and the want of proper tools. Thus the time wore away until the middle of November, all of the party suffering more or less from attacks of dysentery: still, in spite of the continual rain and prevailing humidity, and the want of shoes, no one was so ill as to be detained in the tent. The hope of eventually succeeding in our efforts to escape from this dreary life supported our courage. We could see that, although slowly, our vessel approached completion: the slips, with the necessary inclination for the launch, were securely placed; the head and stern-posts were fixed on the keel; the greater portion of the ribs were made, and we cut others every day in the woods, to complete the number.

If we were deceived in the hope of saving ourselves, and in the means for its prosecution, the resolution of attempting it never failed us. Such was our situation when, on the morning of the 12th November, we heard a sailor who had just left the tent

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cry "Sail, ho! sail, ho!" with all his might. Although this same sailor, deceived by a false appearance, had raised the same cry a month previously, we all ran precipitately towards the shore. This time the report was not false; we saw a vessel anchored in the bay. A heavy shower prevented our seeing distinctly, but we thought she belonged to some ship of war. The yawl was afloat in a moment, and a few men jumping in, were soon on board, not the boat of a man-of-war, but a *lanche* of San Carlos. Those on board of her were not strangers; they were Captain Coisy, Lieut. Lepine, our sailors and companions, who came to deliver us and bring us provisions. It would be useless to dwell on the universal joy that prevailed, and the eagerness with which both parties inquired about what had transpired.

The long-boat had left the island on the 6th September in so leaky a condition, that two men were constantly engaged in baling; during the first night the sea broke over her repeatedly, threatening to carry all to the bottom. On the fifth day they passed Cape Taitachaoun, and intended to double the island lying to the north of it, but were prevented by a gale, which obliged them to lie to for better weather. After some days, alarmed by the diminution of their provisions, they made sail, keeping as near their course as the wind would permit, and two days afterwards entered the great channel which separates the Chonos Archipelago from the Cordilleras. Thus they continued, with alternations of fair and foul weather, sometimes rowing, at others driven back, or landing to collect shell-fish for food, for twelve

days, when one afternoon they saw smoke at a distance, to which they directed their course, taking precaution to look to their arms, for fear of savages. The smoke was found to rise from a fisherman's fire, who, as soon as he understood their critical situation, set off to fetch provisions from his *casa*, three leagues distant, while they waited his return. After this they crossed to the islands of the Chiloe group, at one of which, marked Valasco Port, they were detained nine days by stress of weather, and were driven back in another attempt to cross the channel: but on the 3d October they again set sail, and on the 4th happily arrived at Chiloe, where they landed, for the purpose of procuring provisions at the first inhabitated spot they saw. On the 10th, thirty-five days after their departure from our island, they reached San Carlos, having had incessantly rainy weather during the whole of this perilous voyage.

The captain lost no time in his endeavours after his principal object; the consular agent gave him all the assistance in his power; but, unfortunately, no ship of war or merchant vessel was lying in the port; there were only the miserable *lanches* of the country, quite unfit for such a voyage as that to the place of our detention. Everything in the shape of a vessel was examined, in the hope that one might prove serviceable, but in vain. The captain then heard of a large and commodious *lanche* at a place twenty-five leagues higher up the channel, and, without a moment's delay, he took a whale boat and started for the settlement indicated; but what was his disappointment to find, on arrival, that the vessel was yet

on the stocks, and only half completed. He returned immediately to San Carlos, and determined, as nothing better was to be had, to hire a *lanche* in good condition which had arrived during his absence. This kind of vessel, which is used only for the transport of wood or potatoes from one island to the other, is not decked, and a deck for the voyage to the open sea was indispensable. In spite of all the diligence that could be used, it was the end of October before she was ready. Provisions for two months, in the meantime, had been collected, with the consul's assistance; and on the 30th, the captain, with the lieutenant and four men, sailed from San Carlos in the *lanché*, which had been rigged as a lugger. The master was left behind, as fatigue and privation had rendered him incapable of undertaking the return voyage: the others embarked, confiding in the generous hope of saving their companions. They took a whale-boat in tow, for convenience in landing; but, after beating about among the islands for some time, when they reached the open sea it laboured so much that the seams opened, and they were compelled reluctantly to cut it adrift. Finally, after repeated delays, vexations, and dangers, they recognised the approaches to our island, and at seven in the morning of the 12th November, as already described, they were at anchor in the bay.

The unexpected return of the captain, after seventy-three days' absence, when we thought him lost, placed us immediately in a state of abundance as regarded provisions; but we were not the less desirous of quitting a place where we had been so long detained in

spite of ourselves. It was impossible, however, to get off in the teeth of the north wind, and we were obliged to wait three weeks for a favourable change. On Thursday, the 3d of December, we sailed at three in the afternoon, towing our yawl, whose preservation had cost us so much labour. We did not keep it long, for when off Cape Taitachaoun it broke loose, and drifted away in a squall. This was a serious misfortune, as it deprived us of the means of going on shore to cook our provisions, and of the chance of escape in case of wreck. The squall was the precursor of a furious gale, from which we incurred the greatest danger; the waves breaking over us from stem to stern, and pouring down into the confined space below, where we were crowded one on the other. Our situation was indeed a terrible one. We had given up all hope of safety, and resigned ourselves to the worst, when the storm began to moderate. We were quite uncertain as to our position, and steered for some land that was in sight; but what was our astonishment to find, when we drew near, that it was the island from which we had so recently sailed. We must have drifted sixty leagues during the four days that the gale continued. In our present circumstances, we were glad to re-enter a place we had so much desired to quit eight days previously. Having lost the yawl, we were forced to make a raft, which we drew from the shore to the *lanche*. The savages had not, as we feared, destroyed our tent; it was still standing. The miserable creatures had dug up the potatoes which we planted, with the view of leaving them a resource in the article of

food. We divided our party; one half went every night to sleep on board the *lanche*, as a measure of precaution. The weather seemed to grow worse as the season advanced. We were covered with vermin, and dreaded that we should again be without provisions. On the 2d January 1841, the weather moderating, we were enabled once more to put to sea. No sooner had we cleared the bay than a heavy sea broke our rudder, and forced us to lie to. We secured it as well as possible with lashings, which quickly wore out and snapped. We then cut a few fathoms off our small chain, with which we secured the rudder from further danger. The weather continued stormy; but as the wind was in our favour, we shortly after passed the peninsula of Tres Montes; and once among the islands, we looked upon ourselves as saved.

After this we had fine weather. On the 14th, we landed for fresh provisions, of which we were in great need; and on the 20th, to our great joy, we arrived at San Carlos, eighteen days after our last departure from the island, and seven months and one day from the date of the wreck. We had great reason to congratulate ourselves that, during this long period of privation, suffering, and danger, not one of the party was lost. The captain had neglected nothing in his power to prevent such a misfortune, not only while we were on the island, but in moments of danger, never hesitating to expose himself the first to whatever might happen. To his courage and perseverance must be attributed the success of his great object—the safety of all.

On our arrival at San Carlos, the French consul,

M. Fauché, who had so generously assisted the captain on his former visit, hastened to supply our wants. To him were we indebted for the means of pursuing our voyage, and eventually returning to our native country.—*Chambers's Edinburgh Journal.*

THE QUICKSILVER MINES OF IDRIA.

The following account of the Quicksilver Mines of Idria cannot but be interesting to our readers. The hills of Idria are mostly of transition limestone.

The one containing the mine is of this rock, alternating with clay-slate; and in this clay-slate is found the quicksilver. It exists partly in a native state, in globules, among the slate; but it is far more importantly and abundantly extracted in combination with sulphur, forming veins of cinnabar, which vary exceedingly in thickness. Perhaps, indeed, these might be rather called a series of nodules than of veins; for they are sometime twenty and thirty feet thick, and then dwindle away at both ends to a few inches. The cinnabar ore is considered too poor to be worked when it contains only fifteen to eighteen per cent. of quicksilver, and is then usually abandoned in search of a better vein. The richest ore yields from fifty even to seventy per cent; the residue of the bulk being chiefly sulphur, with a little clay earth. From the entrance, on a level with the town, the descent into the mine is remarkably easy; entirely by flights of stone steps cut at a convenient angle. The first portion of the descent is through the lime-

stone; but we soon arrived at slate. Here we traversed long horizontal passages, and reached other steps, and so descended to several successive levels. The slaty stratum is very lose and incompact; and to secure the passages from its falling in, they are lined on both sides with strong wooden posts, eight to ten inches in diameter, at small distances from each other, between which strong boards are run from the one to the other, the top being secured by a ceiling of planks in a similar manner. We noticed here and there a post or a plank which had yielded or cracked; but the general pressure is so abundantly divided, that there is no danger or difficulty in removing such defective supports, and substituting others in their stead. It has been the custom in working, when a place is abandoned, to fill it with the loose earth, and to board it up; and many such we passed. The greatest depth of mine at present is one hundred and thirty klafters, or nine hundred and eighty Vienna feet, of nearly thirteen English inches each; but having learned that the extreme depths afforded only a repetition of what we had already seen, the greatest descent which we reached was about seventy-five klafters, or four hundred and fifty feet. We visited one spot where the men were working at the native metal; and it was curious to observe the minute globules of quicksilver standing like a dew about the earthy slate, and sometimes run together in small crevices, to the quantity of half a small tea-spoonful. In making communications for further extension through the limestone, gunpowder blasts are necessary; but for obtaining the metal in the slate, whether in the

globules or in the form of cinnabar, the pickaxe alone is used. The pieces of ore or of slate are carried off in small barrows or carts to the foot of the great shaft, through which they are raised to the surface by a water-wheel above. The quantity of native quicksilver, however, is of very trifling import; for the annual product of the mine being from three thousand two hundred to three thousand five hundred quintals, the native metal forms of this only from a hundred to a hundred and thirty quintals. The rest is all derived from the cinnabar, which we saw in several parts in process of extraction. It has externally, in the mine, sometimes a dark brownish hue, but, on being rubbed, exhibits its natural red colour; and in many parts we noticed crystals in it, but of very small size. On our return, the first part of our ascent was by the stairs, until we had only three hundred feet more to mount. We were then at the foot of the first great shaft, when, to economise both time and trouble, we took our station in the iron bucket; obliged indeed to stand in it very close to each other, but we were quickly and steadily drawn up, and soon found ourselves safely landed at the top.

The subsequent processes of obtaining the pure metal are very simple. First, as to the cinnabar. A large furnace or oven is heated with wood. It has an arched brick roof, above which is a bricked chamber wherein the cinnabar is placed, no matter in what sized pieces, partly in large blocks, and partly in small fragments. The fire burns strongly for ten hours; after which the door is closed, and

the furnace remains with its heat in for seven or eight days. This heat causes the mercury and the sulphur of the mass in the chamber above to be expanded into vapour, which vapour is carried through a series of side horizontal chambers, opening from one to the other, much on the principal of the distillers' worm, and the doors of which are successively opened. No artificial cold is applied; but the gradual cooling before the vapour reaches the last chamber at the end of eight days, suffices to condense the quicksilver, which, falling to the floor, is carried off to a common receptable, while the sulphuric gas, not so easily condensible, is allowed to escape ultimately into the atmosphere.

Secondly, as to the native metal. The pieces of slate on and in which it is are pounded by stamping, and washed on a series of planes nearly horizontal, which are kept moving backwards and forwards with a jerking motion. Water is constantly supplied; and the earthy mud passing on from one plane to another, deposits on each some of the metal (which, from its mere gravity falls to the bottom), until all is supposed to be collected. Of these planes the greater part are worked by water-wheels; but there are others kept in motion on the same principle by boys of various ages, of which we saw sixty or seventy so employed. This part of the process, carried on under sheds open on all sides, and thus freely admitting the air, is by no means unhealthy; and the motive of its continuance by the government, in preference to the more economical mode of working all the planes by machinery, is the desire of giving

employment to a certain extent to the sons of miners, who are deemed too young for other labours.

At a short distance from the entrance of the mine is, besides, an establishment for making the artificial cinnabar, used as such for the purposes of trade. It is a combination of pure mercury and sulphur; but I am unable to describe it from personal observation, as the process was not going on when we were at Idria.

The only quicksilver now produced in Europe is, as stated by the Richter at Laybach, about 20,000 quintals in Spain annually, 3,200 or 3,500 at Idria, and 200 or 300 in Bavaria. In many other parts it is detected, but not in sufficient quantity to render its collection a source of profit. Of that produced at Idria, a small part goes to Trieste, where, in strong iron bottles, it is exported chiefly to America; but by far the largest proportion is sent to Vienna, partly for the plating of mirrors, but principally for the use of the gold and silver mines of Hungary and Transylvania, where I believe it is very unscientifically used, and needlessly consumed.

Except in the peculiar appearance of the native metal when seen in globules on the slate, there is little remarkable in the general aspect of the mine, or the mode of its internal operations. A great interest, however, attaches to it, partly of a pleasurable and partly of a painful nature, from its romantic locality, the description of the metal it produces, the deleterious effects of its processes on human health, and the exemplification it affords of the mining administration of the Austrian government. Fifty

years ago, Idria was the Siberia of Austria. Here the victim of state policy and the criminal doomed to death were bound in chains and labour, until the noxious vapours of the mine should accomplish that sentence which the mockery of mercy pretended to commute. Here around the entrance were the hovels which afforded a miserable shelter to many a noble dame, whose husbands and brothers were confined day and night in the depths below, and only permitted to emerge into upper air for some few minutes at long and distant intervals. All these terrors have ceased and have given way to an administration as beneficial as the nature of the work can permit. Here are now no convicts, no forced labour, no continuance in the mine, except at the special desire of the workman, for more than eight hours in the four-and-twenty; and although the labour below is and must be unhealthy, yet such are the arrangements made to remedy as far as possible its evil influences, and such the adequacy of remuneration afforded, that the supply of labourers petitioning to be admitted is considerably greater than can be received into the service.

In the whole mining department of Idria, are now employed between six and seven hundred men, of whom about five hundred work below in the mine Those whom we saw of the latter class had a ghastly, emaciated agitated look. The air in all parts of the mine which we visited, appeared to us to be good, the passages extremely well ventilated, and the heat nowhere very great; but it would seem that the quicksilver, reduced to vapour at great depths, per-

meates the rock in that form, and so passes into the atmosphere of the mine, where the people are at work, slightly covered, and with their pores all open. It thus attacks their nerves, and produces paralytic disorders. In one part of the mine we saw two youths shovelling away the slate, who could hardly have been above seventeen or eighteen years old; we gave them a piece or two of silver as we passed, and I shall hardly forget the sort of hollow look with which they gazed on the money, or the trembling hand with which it was received. Yet, as I have just observed, terrible as all this appears to the stranger, the demand for employment in the mine establishment is far greater than the government can answer; and indeed, were the occupation less destructive to human health than it is, its emolument, in these poor countries, might well be considered as not unattractive. The regular day's labour is eight hours in the four-and-twenty, in which eight hours the labourer is required to do a certain measurement of work, and receives for it the money pay of seventeen kreutzers or nearly sevenpence sterling. If he does less than his measured extent, his pay is proportionably reduced. If he does more, as he may, if by agreement he work in extra hours, he may gain twenty, and sometimes as far as twenty-three kreutzers; but the the number of those who gain less than the seventeen is greater than those who gain more. Besides this money pay, they have the important addition of an allowance of corn, which is sufficient for themselves and their families, and in illness gratuitous medical aid. They have no other positive allowances,

and no lodging found them; but may purchase at a general government store a variety of articles of first necessity cheaper than at the market price.

Such is the case with those who are employed in the subterranean labours. Besides those, about three hundred, including nearly a hundred boys, are occupied with various kinds of work above—in the office of accounts, the stores, the cinnabar furnace, the slate stamping, and various other details. None of these branches of the service are found to be prejudicial to health; and in them the duration of labour is consequently greater; but among the workmen themselves there appears to be far less of that predilection for the upper, above the subterranean labour, which might be naturally supposed. In the common course, the miners enter the service at about fifteen years of age. After forty years' service, in every case, and at much shorter periods when premature ill health has been produced, they are allowed to retire on what may be called full pay for life, namely, seventeen kreutzers per day in money, together with the allowance of corn, and the privilege of purchasing articles of necessity at the government store. In cases of casual illness, the full pay is for a time continued; after a certain period, it is reduced to thirteen kreutzers; and if the illness be such as to render them unfit for further labour, although still young in the service, they are placed on the list of "Provisionalisten," and receive for life some allowance, varying upward from the minimum of eight kreutzers daily, according to circumstances and length of service, and with the permission to increase

their means by private industry. Medical aid to the sick, and education to the young, are in all cases gratuitously afforded; and the advantage of a somewhat more speedy execution of justice is experienced than that of the usual processes, under the montanistic code, to which all mining districts are especially subjected, and which is administered by magistrates who visit each in circuit three or four times in the year.—*Turnbull's Austria.*

SPORTING IN TRISTAN D'ACUNHA.

Mr Earle, an artist of very considerable talents, whose enterprising disposition has led him to exercise his profession in all the quarters of the world (the same who accompanied Captain Fitzroy in the capacity of draughtsman, in his recent circumnavigation of the globe), had once the misfortune to be left by the vessel he had embarked in, upon Tristan d'Acunha, a solitary island in the South Atlantic Ocean, inhabited by a few voluntary settlers. Here he was left in a very desolate condition, for he had nothing on shore with him but the clothes he wore, his dog, his gun, and his sketch book; but six weary months was he condemned to remain there before any vessel arrived in which he might escape from his ocean-girt prison. The inhabitants, four men, three of them old sailors, and the fourth a "ci-devant corporal of the artillery drivers," and the wives and children of two of them, received Mr Earle and his companion, one of the sailors of the ship that deserted them, with great kindness, and between sketching, which was at last put a stop to for want of paper, killing sea-elephants, hunting goats and wild boars, shooting sea-fowl, and plundering penguin's nests, he contrived to while away his time. The pillaging of the penguins being a novel kind of sport, we have extracted his account of the process.

This day we visited what they call a "penguin rookery." The spot of ground occupied by our settlers is bounded on each end by high *bluffs*, which extend far into the sea, leaving a space in front, where all their hogs run nearly wild, as they are prevented go-

ing beyond those limits by those natural barriers; and the creatures who, at stated periods, come up from the sea, remain in undisturbed possession of the beaches beyond our immediate vicinity.

The weather being favourable, we launched our boat early in the morning, for the purpose of procuring a supply of eggs for the consumption of the family. We heard the chattering of the penguins from the rookery long before we landed, which was noisy in the extreme, and groups of them were scattered all over the beach; but the high thick grass on the declivity of the hill seemed their grand establishment, and they were hidden by it from our view. As we could not find any place where we could possibly land our boat in safety, I and two more swam on shore with bags tied round our necks to hold the eggs in, and the boat with one of the men lay off, out of the surf. I should think the ground occupied by these *birds* (if I may be allowed so to call them) was at least a mile in circumference, covered in every part with grasses and reeds, which grew considerably higher than my head; and on every gentle ascent, beginning from the beach, on all the large grey rocks, which occasionally appeared above this grass, sat perched groups of these strange and uncouth-looking creatures; but the noise which rose up from beneath baffles all description! As our business lay with the noisy part of this community, we quickly crept under the grass, and commenced our plundering search, though there needed none, so profuse was the quantity. The scene altogether well merits a better description than I can give,—thousands and hundreds

of thousands of these little two-legged monsters hopping around us, with voices very much resembling in tone that of the human; all opening their throats together; so thickly clustered in groups that it was almost impossible to place the foot without despatching one of them. The shape of the animal, their curious motions, and their most extraordinary voices, made me fancy myself in a kingdom of pigmies. The regularity of their manners, their all sitting in exact rows, resembling more the order of a camp than a rookery of noisy birds, delighted me. These creatures did not move away on our approach, but only increased their noise, so we were obliged to displace them forcibly from their nests; and this ejectment was not produced without a considerable struggle on their parts; and, being armed with a formidable beak, it soon became a scene of desperate warfare. We had to take particular care to protect our hands and legs from their attacks; and for this purpose each one had provided himself with a short stout club. The noise they continued to make during our ramble through their territories the sailors said was, "Cover 'em up, cover 'em up." And, however incredible it may appear, it is nevertheless true, that I heard those words so distinctly repeated, and by such various tones of voices, that several times I started, and expected to see one of the men at my elbow. Even these little creatures, as well as the monstrous sea-elephant, appear to keep up a continued warfare.

As the penguins sit in rows, forming regular lanes leading down to the beach, whenever one of them feels an inclination to refresh herself by a plunge into

the sea, she has to run the gauntlet through the whole *street*, every one pecking at her as she passes without mercy, and though all are occupied in the same employment, not the smallest degree of friendship seems to exist; and whenever we turned one off her nest she was sure to be thrown amongst foes; and, besides the loss of her eggs, was invariably doomed to receive a severe beating and pecking from her companions. Each one lays three eggs, and, after a time, when the young are strong enough to undertake the journey, they go to sea, and are not again seen till the ensuing spring. Their city is deserted of its numerous inhabitants, and quietness reigns till nature prompts their return the following year, when the same noisy scene is repeated, as the same flock of birds returns to the spot where they were hatched.

After raising a tremendous tumult in this numerous colony, and sustaining continued combat, we came off victorious, making capture of about a thousand eggs, resembling in size, colour, and transparency of shell, those of a duck; and the taking possession of this immense quantity did not occupy more than one hour, which may serve to prove the incalculable number of birds collected together. We did not allow them sufficient time, after landing, to lay all their eggs; for had the season been further advanced, and we had found three eggs in each nest, the whole of them might probably have proved addled, the young partly formed, and the eggs of no use to us; but the whole of those we took turned out good, and had a particularly fine and delicate flavour. It was a work of considerable difficulty to get our booty safe into the

boat—so frail a cargo—with so tremendous a surf running against us. However, we finally succeeded, though not without smashing a considerable number of the eggs.

THE COCOA-NUT TREE.

THE following interesting account of the growth, cultivation, and uses of the Cocoa-nut tree is extracted from the valuable work published about ten years back, by Mr Ellis, the well-known missionary to the South Sea Islands, entitled "Polynesian Researches."

The fruits of the South Sea Islands are not so numerous as in some continental countries of similar temperature, but they are valuable; and, next to the bread-fruit, the *haari*, or cocoa-nut (*cocos nutifera*), is the most serviceable. The tree on which it grows is also one of the most useful and ornamental in the islands, imparting to the landscape, in which it fails not to form a conspicuous object, all the richness and elegance of intertropical verdure.

The stem is perfectly cylindrical, three or four feet in diameter at the root, very gradually tapering to the top, where it is probably not more than eighteen inches round. It is one single stem from the root to the crown, composed apparently of a vast number of small hollow reeds, united by a kind of resinous pith, and enclosed in a rough, brittle, and exceeding hard kind of bark. The stem is without branch or leaf, excepting at the top, where a beautiful crown or tuft of long green leaves appears like a graceful plume waving in the fitful breeze, or nodding over the spread-

ing wood, or the humble shrubbery. The nut begins to grow in a few months after it is planted; in about five or six years, the stem is seven or eight feet high, and the tree begins to bear. It continues to grow and bear fifty or sixty years, or perhaps longer, as there are many groves of trees, apparently in their highest perfection, which were planted by Po-ma-re, the chief of Tahiti, nearly fifty years ago. While the plants are young, they require fencing in order to protect them from the pigs; but after the crown has reached a few feet above the ground, the plants require no further care.

The bread-fruit, the plantain, and almost every other tree furnishing any valuable fruit, arrives at perfection only in the most fertile soil; but the cocoa-nut, although it will grow in the rich valleys and in the bottoms of them, and by the side of the streams that flow through them, yet flourishes equally on the barren sea-beach, amid fragments of coral and sand, where its roots are washed by every rising tide; and on the sun-burnt sides of the mountains where the soil is shallow, and remote from the streams so favourable to vegetation. The trunk of the tree is used for a variety of purposes; their best spears are made of cocoa-nut wood; wall-plates, rafters, and pillars for their larger houses, were often of the same material; their instruments for splitting bread-fruit, their rollers for their canoes, and also their most durable fences, were made with its trunk. It is also a valuable kind of fuel, and makes excellent charcoal.

The timber is not the only valuable article the cocoa-nut tree furnishes. The leaves, called *niau*, are

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The bread-fruit, the plantain, and almost every other tree furnishing any valuable fruit, arrives at perfection only in the most fertile soil; but the cocoa-nut, although it will grow in the rich valleys and in the bottoms of them, and by the side of the streams that flow through them, yet flourishes equally on the barren sea-beach, amid fragments of coral and sand, where its roots are washed by every rising tide; and on the sun-burnt sides of the mountains where the soil is shallow, and remote from the streams so favourable to vegetation. The trunk of the tree is used for a variety of purposes; their best spears are made of cocoa-nut wood; wall-plates, rafters, and pillars for their larger houses, were often of the same material; their instruments for splitting bread-fruit, their rollers for their canoes, and also their most durable fences, were made with its trunk. It is also a valuable kind of fuel, and makes excellent charcoal.

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THE COCOA-NUT TREE.

THE following interesting account of the growth, cultivation, and uses of the Cocoa-nut tree is extracted from the valuable work published about ten years back, by Mr Ellis, the well-known missionary to the South Sea Islands, entitled "Polynesian Researches."

The fruits of the South Sea Islands are not so numerous as in some continental countries of similar temperature, but they are valuable; and, next to the bread-fruit, the *haari*, or cocoa-nut (*cocos nutifera*), is the most serviceable. The tree on which it grows is also one of the most useful and ornamental in the islands, imparting to the landscape, in which it fails not to form a conspicuous object, all the richness and elegance of intertropical verdure.

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composed of strong stalks, twelve or fifteen feet long. A number of long, narrow pointed leaflets are ranged alternately on opposite sides. The leaflets are often plaited, when the whole leaf is called *pava*, and forms an excellent skreen for the sides of their houses, or covering for their floors. Several kinds of baskets are also made with the leaves, one of which called *arairi*, is neat, convenient, and durable. They were also plaited for bonnets, or shades for the forehead and eyes, and were worn by both sexes. In many of their religious ceremonies they were used, and the *niau*, or leaf, was also an emblem of authority, and was sent by the chief to his dependants, when any requisition was made: bunches or strings of the leaflets were also suspended in the temple on certain occasions, and answered the same purpose as beads in Roman Catholic worship, reminding the priest or worshipper of the order of his prayers. On the tough and stiff stalks of the leaflets, the candle-nuts, employed for lighting their houses, were strung when used.

Round that part of the stem of the leaf which is attached to the trunk of the tree, there is a singular provision of nature, for the security of the long leaves against the violence of the winds. A remarkably fine, strong, fibrous matting, attaching to the bark under the bottom of the stalk, extending half-way round the trunk, and reaching perhaps two or three feet up the leaf, acting like a bracing of net-work to each side of the stalk, keeps it steadily fixed to the trunk. While the leaves are young, this substance is remarkably white, transparent, and as fine in texture

as silver paper. In this state it is occasionally cut into long narrow slips, tied up in bunches, and used by the natives to ornament the hair. Its remarkable flexibility, beautiful whiteness, and glossy surface, render it a singularly novel, light, and elegant plume; the effect of which is heightened by its contrast with the black and shining ringlets of the native hair it surmounts. As the leaf increases in size, and the matting is exposed to the air, it becomes coarser and stronger, assuming a yellowish colour, and is called *Aa*.

There is a kind of seam along the centre, exactly under the stem of the leaf, from both sides of which long and tough fibres, about the size of a bristle, regularly diverge in an oblique direction. Sometimes there appear to be two layers of fibres, which cross each other, and the whole is cemented with a still finer, fibrous, and adhesive substance. The length and evenness of the threads or fibres, the regular manner in which they cross each other at oblique angles; the extent of surface, and the thickness of the piece, corresponding with that of coarse common cloth; the singular manner in which the fibres are attached to each other—cause this curious substance, woven in the loom of nature, to present to the eye a remarkable resemblance to cloth spun and woven by human ingenuity.

This singular fibrous matting is sometimes taken off by the natives in pieces two or three feet wide, and used as wrapping for their arrow-root, or made up into bags. It is also occasionally employed in preparing articles of clothing. Jackets, coats, and even

shirts, are made with the *Aa*, though the coarsest linen cloth would be much more soft and flexible. To these shirts the natives generally fix a cotton collar and wristbands, and seem susceptible of but little irritation from its wiry texture and surface. It is a favourite dress with the fishermen, and others occupied on the sea.

The fruit, however, is the most valuable part of this serviceable, hardy, and beautiful plant. The flowers are small and white, insignificant when compared with the size of the tree or the fruit. They are ranged along the sides of a tough, succulent, branching stalk, surrounded by a sheath, which the natives call *Aroe*, and are fixed to the trunk of the tree, immediately above the bottom of the leaf. Fruit in every stage, from the first formation after the falling of the blossom, to the hard, dry, ripe, and full-grown nut, that has almost begun to germinate, may be seen at one time on the same tree, and frequently fruit in several distinct stages on the same bunch, attached to the trunk of the same stalk.

The tree is slow in growth, and the fruit does not, probably, come to perfection in much less than twelve months after the blossoms have fallen. A bunch will sometimes contain twenty or thirty nuts, and there are, perhaps, six or seven bunches on the tree at the same time. Each nut is surrounded by a tough fibrous husk, in some parts two inches thick; and when it has reached its full size, it contains, enclosed in a soft white shell, a pint or a pint and a half of the juice usually called cocoa-nut milk.

There is, at this time, no pulp whatsoever in the

inside. In this stage of its growth the nut is called *Oua*, and the liquid is preferred to that found in the nut in any other state. It is perfectly clear, and in taste combines a degree of acidity and sweetness which renders it equal to the best lemonade. No accurate idea of the consistency and taste of the juice of the cocoa-nut can be formed from that found in the nuts brought to England. These are old and dry, and the fluid comparatively rancid; in this state they are never used by the natives of the South Sea Islands, except for the purpose of planting or extracting oil. The shell of the *Oua*, or young cocoa-nut, is often used medicinally.

In a few weeks after the nut has reached its full size, a soft, white pulp, remarkably delicate and sweet, resembling in consistency and appearance the white of a slightly-boiled egg, is formed around the inside of the shell. In this state it is called *Niaa*, is eaten by the chiefs as an article of luxury, and used in preparing many of what may be called the made-dishes of Tahitian banquets. After remaining a month or six weeks longer, the pulp on the inside becomes much firmer, and rather more than half an inch in thickness. The juice assumes a whitish colour and a sharper taste. It is now called *Omoto*, and is not so much used. If allowed to hang two or three months longer on the tree, the outside skin becomes yellow and brown, the shell hardens, the kernel increases to an inch or an inch and a quarter in thickness, and the liquid is reduced to less than half a pint. It is now called *Opaa*. The hard nut is sometimes broken

in two and broiled, or eaten as taken from the tree, but is generally used in making oil.

If the cocoa-nut be kept long after it is fully ripe, a sweet, spongy substance is formed in the inside, originating at the inner end of the germ which is inclosed in the kernel, immediately opposite one of the three apertures or eyes, in the sharpest end of the shell. This fibrous sponge ultimately absorbs the water, and fills the cavity, dissolving the hard kernel, and combining it with its own substance, so that the shell, instead of containing a kernel and milk, incloses only a soft cellular substance. While this truly wonderful process is going on within the nut, a single bud or shoot, of a white colour but hard texture, forces its way through one of the holes in the shell, perforates the tough fibrous bark, and, after rising some inches, begins to unfold its pale-green leaves to the light and air; at this time, also, two thick white fibres, originating in the same point, push away the stoppers or covering from the other two holes in the shell, pierce the husk in an opposite direction, and finally penetrate the ground. If allowed to remain, the shell, which no knife would cut, and which a saw would scarcely penetrate, is burst by an expansive power, generated within itself; the husk and the shell gradually decay, and, forming a light manure, facilitate the growth of the young plant, which gradually strikes its roots deeper, elevates its stalk, and expands its leaves, until it becomes a lofty, fruitful, and graceful tree.

The cocoa-nut oil is procured from the pulp, and

is prepared by grating the kernel of the old nut, and depositing it in a long wooden trough, usually the trunk of a tree, hollowed out. This is placed in the sun every morning, and exposed during the day; after a few days the grated nut is piled up in heaps in the trough, leaving a small space between each heap. As the oil exudes, it drains into the hollows, whence it is scooped in bamboo canes, and preserved for sale or for use. After the oil ceases to collect in the trough, the kernel is put into a bag, of the matted fibres, and submitted to the action of a rude lever press; but the additional quantity of oil, thus obtained, is inferior in quality to that produced by the heat of the sun.

In addition to these advantages, the shells of the larger old cocoa-nuts are used as water bottles, the largest of which will hold a quart; they are of a black colour, frequently highly polished, and, with care, last a number of years. All the cups and drinking vessels of the natives are made with cocoa-nut shells, usually of the *Omoto*, which is of a yellow colour. It is scraped very thin, and is often slightly transparent. Their ava cups were generally black, highly polished, and sometimes ingeniously carved with a variety of devices; but the Tahitians did not excel in carving. The fibres of the husks are separated from the pulp by soaking them in water, and are used in making various kinds of cinet and cordage, especially a valuable rope.

It is impossible to contemplate either the bread-fruit or cocoa-nut trees, in their gigantic and spontaneous growth, their majestic appearance, the value

and abundance of their fruit, and the varied purposes to which they are subservient, without admiring the wisdom and benevolence of the Creator, and his distinguishing kindness towards the inhabitants of these interesting islands.

RENCONTRE WITH A BOA CONSTRICTOR.

Captain C—— of her Majesty's 84th Foot, was one of the most indefatigable sportsmen I ever met with, and the entire of his time that could be spared from regimental duty was passed in the jungles. He was a man of vast personal strength, could undergo any degree of fatigue, in short, possessed a perfectly iron constitution. His habits, too, were anything but luxurious—a single attendant carrying a rifle of large bore, a small carpet to sleep on, a limited stock of linen, and a good supply of ammunition accompanied the sportsman, who pursued his game by day, and at night sought shelter in some village, perfectly careless as to his accommodations in the way of food or lodging, his beverage being, moreover, the simple element, for he never carrried with him supplies of any kind, trusting his commissariat aid to Providence and rural hospitality. In this manner Captain C—— became well known to the natives of the country in every direction where sport was to be obtained; he was sufficiently acquainted with their language to make himself understood, and the kindly simplicity of his manner attached them to his person, and many

of them, indeed, have been known to walk miles to give him early information of large game, which were his favourite objects of pursuit. Captain C—— was thus quite "at home" in the Wynaud jungle and great western ghauts, where he probably brought to bag, single-handed, more head of large game—elephants, bisons, tigers, and the like, than any other man ever did before, or ever will again in India. When upon one of these excursions, Captain C—— happened to be passing the night at a small village in the Wynaud jungle, when a ryot who had been out very late searching for a stray bullock, came to tell him of a large cheetul, or spotted deer, which he had watched to its lair. He had also heard from the villagers that a huge snake had been several times in that neighbourhood. He started accordingly after his game at daybreak, accompanied by the villager and a favourite dog, which rarely left his heels unless ordered. After proceeding about half a mile through very dense jungle, and being, as the villager supposed, near the spot where the cheetul had laid itself down, Captain C—— of a sudden missed his dog, and hearing a rustling in the bushes about ten yards off, accompanied by a whimpering noise, he turned in that direction, and saw what he at the first glance took for a tiger, from its colour—a mixture of black and brown—but soon discovered what the monster really was—an enormous boa constrictor, which had seized his poor Juno, and was at that moment crushing her to atoms in his terrible coils. The native who was with him likewise saw what it was, and immediately fled. Captain C—— afterwards de-

scribed the appearance of the reptile, when thus coiled round his dog, as somewhat resembling a barrel, every portion in violent muscular motion, and he distinctly heard the bones of the poor animal crack in succession within its terrible embrace. At last the monster raised his head, and fixed two glaring eyes on Captain C——, who, in another moment, might perchance have been fascinated by their deadly gleam, but with unerring aim he placed two balls in its forehead. Their effect was not, however, as he expected, fatal, and the snake instantly uncoiling itself from its victim, came straight at Captain C——, who, of course, took to flight, but so thick was the jungle, that he found the animal gaining on him, from the noise it made amongst the bushes; and therefore sought shelter in a tree, reloading his gun with all possible expedition. Whether the reptile followed him by sight or smell, he could not judge, but Captain C—— was only just prepared for a second discharge, when the boa, reached the tree, and instantly twining itself round the stem, would have soon seized him, but fortunately at the next shot he blew out both eyes with a charge of BB; yet though the snake appeared for a moment stunned, it still continued its efforts to reach him, until by repeated shots it was incapacitated from rising; not, however, till Captain C—— had completely emptied his powder-flask; and even then he did not venture to descend, as the reptile continued coiled round the tree, occasionally by a muscular movement showing that its vital powers were not wholly extinct. At length, after some hours' solitary confinement on his

perch, and shouting until he was hoarse for aid, Captain C—— had the satisfaction to see a number of villagers arrive, by whom the monstrous animal was soon completely destroyed. Captain C—— had no means of accurately measuring its length but by a piece of stick, which the natives said was a cubit long, and he declared it measured upwards of thirty of these, and was much thicker than one of his own thighs.—*Madras United Service Gazette.*

EXCURSION TO GRANADA.

From the Rev. W. Robertson's "Journal of a Visit to the Peninsula," an interesting volume recently published.

THE most remarkable object in this ruined capital of ancient Moorish power and splendour is the Alhambra. The external appearance of this renowned palace is as remarkable for meanness and deformity as its internal structure is for richness and grace. It is precisely what Swinburne describes—"a heap of as ugly buildings as can well be seen, all huddled together, seemingly without the least intention of forming one habitation out of them." The roof is covered with deeply channelled tile. The walls are built in a slovenly manner, and coarsely plastered. There is not the slightest attempt at external ornament—no symptom of regularity of design; so that the whole mass looks like a confused heap of coarsely-finished barns or granaries. I know not whether the external ugliness of Moorish palaces is the result of design,

and in order to increase the effect by contrast of the taste, beauty, richness, and symmetry within. Certainly the effect thus produced is absolutely startling, and the surprise one experiences on entering literally bewildering. The suddenness of the change appears like enchantment. By an obscure and rudely-finished door, and through a dead wall, the construction of which would discredit a farm-yard, we are ushered into a palace which might rival the most brilliant descriptions of eastern romance. I shall not attempt to describe this singular edifice. No description, indeed, can convey the slightest idea of the building, either in the arrangement of its apartments or in its decorations. They are altogether unlike anything with which the eye is familiarized in European architecture; and the very names by which we should be forced to distinguish the different compartments, would necessarily convey a false impression of their appearance. To describe the ornaments and decorations of this fairy palace would especially be a hopeless task. The exquisite symmetry of the various courts and halls, the singular lightness and elegance of the slender marble pillars, with their fanciful capitals and richly ornamented arches, the gorgeous colouring on roof and cupola, the tasteful minuteness of the stucco lacework on walls and ceilings, the pleasing variety of mosaic patterns, the singular airy loveliness and most graceful richness of the whole, are things of which neither pen nor pencil can convey any correct idea. The fresh loveliness of the brilliant decorations of the Alhambra seems to mock the faded glories of its ancient lords. The perfect sym-

metry of the apartments, and the exquisite harmony of their decorations, detract much from their apparent size. But though actually of larger dimensions than they appear, they are by no means of great size. Beauty, and not grandeur, is the object aimed at by the Moorish architect; and the dimensions of the various apartments are admirably proportioned to the peculiar style of decoration. The light and elegant pillars, with their endless variety of capital; the finical, yet most graceful minuteness of the fretwork which adorns the walls; the beautiful, rich, but fanciful ornaments of the arches and ceilings; the carving and inlaying, and brilliant vermilion and azure colouring of the alcoves—would, in apartments of great size, be regarded as frippery and gingerbread. Here they are in perfect harmony, and accord so exquisitely with the style, dimensions, and proportions of each apartment, as to produce a whole of unrivalled grace and beauty. The Court of the Myrtles, by which we enter the palace, is the plainest, and has suffered much in its ornaments; but were it not for its proximity to the celebrated Court of the Lions, would be exceedingly admired. This last is a most exquisite specimen of that peculiarity in Moorish architecture—the open court—from which, doubtless, the Spaniards have derived their patio. The elegant and oft-described Fountain of the Lions still shoots up its crystal jet in the centre of this splendid court. It consists of a double marble basin, one rising on a pedestal from the centre of the other; and from the centre of this upper basin the water is projected through a marble tube or pillar. The jet falls into

the upper basin, from whence the water overflows into the lower, and is discharged from the mouths of the twelve lions which support it. The lions are grotesque, misshapen, ugly brutes. The basins are of very elegant shape and workmanship, ornamented with sculptured festoons and Arabic inscriptions. It is said to have been constructed professedly in imitation of Solomon's molten sea; to the description of which, in 1st Kings, it bears no small resemblance. "It stood upon twelve oxen, three looking toward the north, and three looking toward the west, and three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; and the sea was set above them, and all their hinder parts were inward. And it was an hand-breadth thick, and the brim thereof was wrought like the brim of a cup, *with flowers of lilies.*" The oxen of the molten sea supported the basin in the same manner as the lions in the fountain of the Alhambra. The Court of the Lions probably presents the most finished specimen of architectural beauty and elegance in the world. According to Swinburne's measurement, it is one hundred feet in length and fifty in breadth. It is surrounded by an open corridor of indescribable lightness and elegance, the roof of which rests on richly-ornamented arches, supported by one hundred and sixty-four slender marble columns, curiously sculptured, and with such a variety of capitals, that no two appear to be alike. The ceiling of the corridors is of carved wood, originally gorgeously painted in azure, vermilion, and gold, and inlaid with ivory; but only enough remains of these rich decorations to prove their ancient magnificence. Three

noble and gorgeously-ornamented halls open from this corridor, namely, the Sala de los Abencerrages, or "Hall of the Abencerrages," on the south; the Sala de las Dos Hermanas, or "Hall of the Two Sisters," on the north; and the Sala de Justicia, or "Hall of Justice," on the east.

DARING EXPLOIT OF BANDITTI.

De Los Torres, a nobleman of great wealth had just arrived at his estates in the vega of Granada. His chateau is situated on the skirts of a populous village, about eight or nine miles from Granada, and to seize and carry him off from his own castle was the daring scheme of the robber chief. For several days some of the robbers were stationed in the neighbourhood as spies, to watch his motions, and to report when and where he could be most successfully met with. The marquis, however, seldom stirred from the immediate vicinity of his castle, and the number of his servants, as well as the neighbourhood of the village, rendered any attempt to carry him off during his short walks or rides all but hopeless; and whenever he visited Granada, he was well armed and well attended. Despairing of any more favourable opportunity occurring, and impatient of delay, the bandit resolved to surprise him in his chateau itself. It was about half an hour after midnight when the porter of the chateau was disturbed by a summons to the gate. His inquiries were answered by a man, who, in the pale light of the moonless sky, appeared dressed like a courier, and who stated that he had just arrived

from Cadiz with dispatches of consequence, for the marquis's own hand. The unsuspicious porter immediatey undid the strong fastenings of the gate, and admitted the pretended courier. The stranger on entering proceeded to disencumber himself of his cloak; when, suddenly wheeling round on the porter, who was busy securing the gate, he cast the cloak over his head, and having fairly enveloped him in its ample folds, so as to prevent the slightest outcry, he deliberately gagged and bound him. This done, the gate was again gently opened, and a score of robbers glided noiselessly into the hall. Under the direction of some who must have been intimately acquainted with the château, the band divided, the greater number proceeding to the servants' apartments, lest any of them should escape and alarm the village; while the captain himself advanced directly to the sleeping-chamber of the marquis. All this was not managed so quietly as not to disturb the lord of the mansion, who, on hearing some unusual noise, hastily arose, and appeared at the door of his bed-chamber with a lighted lamp in his hand. This was all the robbers required to guide them to their prey; and, after an ineffectual attempt to escape, he was secured without resistance. Meantime, the rest of the band having gagged and bound all they could find in the chateau, they made haste to depart with their prize. A number of valuables which lay readily to hand were carried off; but they refrained from ransacking the house, having suspicions that one or more of the domestics had escaped unperceived, and fearing that the village might be alarmed, and their retreat cut off. Their

fears were not groundless: the villagers were aroused; the alarm spread from house to house; and seizing their firelocks, a band of half-naked peasants rushed to the castle, but too late to rescue the captive nobleman; and all they heard of the robbers was the rapid clang of their horses' hoofs, as they galloped at full speed in an opposite direction.

Intelligence of this daring exploit was immediately despatched to Granada, and no little stir and commotion it excited. Large bodies of soldiers were sent to scour the mountains; the most noted thief-catchers were set upon the trail; and every exertion made to trace the robbers to their lair and rescue their captive. Meanwhile, the bandits, having secured their prisoner, coolly sent intimation to his family that he was in perfect safety, and should want for nothing; but should not be set at liberty until a sum equal to £30,000 sterling should be paid down for his ransom. This only roused the authorities to still greater exertions. Again the soldiers scoured the mountains and searched the valleys; but neither bandit nor marquis was to be heard of. By what means his hiding-place was ultimately discovered, I could not learn; but he was found at last, neither among the inhospitable rocks of the barren mountains, nor in the recesses of their secluded valleys, but in a quiet village not many miles from the city of Granada. Once at liberty, the rage of the marquis against his captors knew no bounds; and through his information and exertions six of the robbers were seized, and his emissaries are still on the watch for the rest. But what is most singular in the whole affair is, that several of

the robbers are known at this moment in Granada; nay, they have actually put themselves in communication with their late captive, offering to restore the articles carried off from the chateau, provided their comrades be liberated, and the pursuit after the rest of the band given up; and yet no exertions of the police can discover where these bold negociators are concealed. Meanwhile the marquis has rejected all proposals of accommodation, and thirsts for nothing but vengeance. This is regarded as a piece of perfect infatuation; and it is universally expected that he will ultimately fall a sacrifice to his own revenge, and be murdered by those for whose blood he thirsts.

THE TAKING OF MEXICO BY CORTES.

AN HISTORICAL INCIDENT.

At length, on the 10th of May, two divisions—each consisting of two hundred Spaniards and about two thousand five hundred Indian warriors, and commanded, the one by Alvarado, and the other by a distinguished cavalier named Christoval de Olid—left Tezcuco for the environs of Mexico. The two captains performed the circuit of the northern end of the lakes without opposition, and established themselves at their appointed posts before the capital—Alvarado in Tacuba, and Olid in Cojohuacan. Sandoval was then despatched with a similar force to Iztapalapan, of which place he gained possession after some re-

sistance;—thus making the Spaniards masters of three out of the four great avenues leading from the mainland into the city. Lastly, Cortes took the command of the flotilla, in which were embarked three hundred men, one half of whom were to serve as mariners. He sailed across the lake, dispersed or destroyed with ease some hundreds of the Aztec canoes, and appeared in triumph off Mexico. He then anchored at the fort of Xoloc, landed part of his men, and easily dislodged the garrison. Sandoval was then ordered to march round the lake, and occupy the town of Tepejacac, which commanded the great northern causeway. And thus the blockade of the devoted capital, both by land and by water, was finally completed.

After some days employed in skirmishing, and in strengthening the positions of his army, Cortes commanded a general assault. He himself, with his own division and that of Olid, pushed forward from Xoloc; forced his way through all the defences into the town; stormed the great Temple of Huitzilopochli, and made good his retreat, though not without peril and difficulty, to his quarters. At the same time, Sandoval and Alvarado advanced along the causeways of Tacuba and Tepejacac, and engaged the Aztecs in the suburbs, but did not enter the gates of the city. Several attacks were afterwards made in the same manner, by which much damage was done to the capital; and the palaces of Axayacatl and Montezuma were burned to the ground. But these destructive incursions—though they clearly proved that no part of the city was secure from immediate storm—

did not seem to shake the constancy of the besieged; and Cortes, against his better judgment, was induced, by the impatience of his followers, to make another grand attempt at carrying the city by assault.

Early upon the appointed morning, the main body of the army advanced in three divisions from Xoloc; while Alvarado and Sandoval, uniting their forces at Tacuba, marched along the western causeway to its support. They all penetrated the city with less resistance than before, with so little, indeed, that their sagacious leader soon suspected a stratagem. His anxiety was increased by the alarming discovery, that the cavaliers who commanded his vanguard had neglected, in the eagerness of pursuit, to fill up a large ditch or canal which intersected the street; and that, consequently, their retreat, if hard pressed by the enemy, would be exceedingly difficult. But while Cortes and his followers were zealously labouring to supply this fatal omission, the horn of Guatemozin—a signal already dreaded by the bravest Spaniards—was heard to sound from the summit of a neighbouring temple. In a few minutes, the tumult of battle was heard rolling fearfully back through the deserted streets; and the van of the Spanish army, overwhelmed by an innumerable force of Aztecs, appeared in full and disorderly retreat. Cortes, though he had still time to retire unmolested, was, as usual, faithful to his distressed comrades. He charged the enemy without hesitation, and fought desperately to cover the passage of the fugitives through the canal. But all his exertions, could not prevent great confusion and considerable loss. He was himself in the most imminent

personal danger; he received several wounds; and he would have been actually carried off prisoner by the Aztecs, but for the devoted exertions of his men, several of whom, both Spaniards and Tlascalans, perished in his defence. At length, however, the passage was completed; order was restored; and the army—its rear still protected by the indefatigable General at the head of his cavalry—retreated steadily to Xoloc. Alvarado and Sandoval, who had entered the city with more caution, were likewise desperately attacked by the Aztecs, and had considerable difficulty in effecting their retreat. The whole loss of the Spaniards must have amounted to nearly a hundred men, of whom sixty-two were taken alive by the enemy.

The consequences of this repulse were, for a time, most alarming. The defenders of the city were filled with enthusiasm; and their priests openly announced the solemn promise of the gods of Anahuac, that, within eight days more, the sacrilegious invaders should be utterly destroyed. This prediction, combined with the failure of the late assault, had so great an effect upon the Indian auxiliaries, that they all—except a few of the most distinguished Tlascalan chieftains—deserted the Spanish camp—some withdrawing to a short distance, and others setting off for their respective homes. The Spaniards themselves were overwhelmed with grief and despair at the sight of the human sacrifices which took place upon the summits of the Mexican temples; where, for several successive days, most of the unfortunate prisoners were massacred in cold blood by their captors. But Cortes

did not allow himself to be disheartened. He knew that his own men, with their flotilla, their cannon, and their strong entrenchments upon the causeways, were well able to maintain the blockade; and, shutting himself up in his quarters, he waited patiently until the last faint gleam of Aztec prosperity disappeared. The eight fatal days passed by; and still the besiegers commanded the lake with their ships, and maintained their posts at Xoloc, Tacuba, and Tepejacac. The Aztecs, less patient than certain political dupes of our own day, lost all confidence when convinced of the palpable falsehood of their oracles. The auxiliaries—ashamed of their irresolution, and alarmed for its consequences—returned in great numbers to their posts, and were graciously welcomed by the politic Cortes. And thus, within a fortnight after the defeat in the city, the confidence of the besiegers was completely restored, and the deliverance of the besieged seemed as remote as ever.

The system of attack next adopted by Cortes, was one which nothing but the sternest necessity could justify. The city was every where open to assault; but it was clear that his soldiers could not penetrate the streets without imminent danger of being overpowered by the defenders. His only resource was therefore to destroy, as he advanced, every building which could be made a post for defence; and this terrible resolution he at length, not without bitter reluctance, resolved to carry into execution. Shortly after the return of the allies to the camp, the whole besieging army advanced from Xoloc and Tacuba, and established themselves in the suburbs of the ca-

pital. A large body of Indian pioneers then proceeded—Cortes setting them the example with his own hands—to level the streets and houses with the ground, and to fill up the canals with the rubbish. In the meantime the Spaniards, with the choicest Indian warriors, occupied the best positions for the protection of the workmen, who were, of course, greatly exposed to attack. The sallies of the despairing Aztecs, though frequent and formidable, were constantly repulsed; but they inflicted considerable loss upon the imperfectly armed allies by a constant discharge of stones and arrows. Still the Indians—all, by inheritance, either the deadly enemies or the oppressed slaves of the Aztec race—persevered in their task of revenge with unabated zeal and firmness. The very stones of Tenochtitlan were to them objects of abhorence, and they had no sympathy for the natural regret felt by the Spaniards at the destruction of so splendid a trophy. In this manner, day after day, and week after week, the besiegers continued to work their way through the perishing city, until the summer was far advanced. The palace of Guatemozin himself was destroyed; the principal temple was stormed and burned to the ground by Alvarado; and at length the Spaniards established themselves in the great square or market-place of Tlaclolco, which had witnessed the overthrow of their vanguard on the day of the general assault. Seven-eighths of the whole magnificent capital were a black and desolate waste; and the surviving citizens were now crowded in the narrow and ruinous streets which had formed its north-eastern quarter.

In the meantime, famine and pestilence had fearfully aided the Spanish sword in thinning the ranks of the besieged. We cannot follow Mr Prescott through his eloquent but painful description of their miserable sufferings. It is enough that the sight filled the Spaniards, stern and not unjustly exasperated as they were, with horror and compassion. Terms of peace and security, far more favourable than a civilised commander would have ventured to expect, were earnestly and repeatedly offered to Guatemozin. But the Aztec Emperor was obdurate; and his followers, if unequal to their enemy in the shock of battle, possessed all the invincible passive heroism which distinguishes the aboriginal warrior of America. Exhausted as they were by toil and suffering, they continued to defy and harass the besiegers; and constantly boasted of the ample revenge which they would inflict, when their probation should at length be complete, and the outraged gods of Anahuac should descend to exterminate their impious enemies and their apostate worshippers. It is impossible to read the description of their patriotic infatuation, without calling to mind that strange conjecture of certain ethnologists, which ascribes to the North American tribes a Hebrew origin. No two passages of history were ever more precisely similar, in all their moral characteristics, than the siege of Jerusalem by Titus, and that of Mexico by Cortes.

The last scene of the war was now at hand. The surviving Aztecs had been at length brought to bay within limits so narrow, that the besiegers could venture to carry them by storm; and on the 14th of

August, Cortes, after long delay and repeated efforts to procure a surrender, unwillingly gave orders for a general assault. The Spaniards—long ago sated with revenge, and filled with disgust at the necessity of butchering men, helpless from disease and privation—constantly offered quarter, and saved many lives. But the allies—true to the character of merciless inveteracy which distinguishes their race—were deaf to the commands of Cortes, and spared not a single Aztec who fell into their power. The battle, or rather the massacre, lasted nearly two days, and would probably have been maintained until the besieged had perished to a man, had not an unexpected accident brought it to a sudden conclusion. Among the crew of a Mexican canoe, which was captured by a Spanish brigantine while attempting to reach the shore, was a youthful warrior, whom the captors immediately recognised as Guatemozin himself. The fatal news became generally known to both parties upon the second evening of the assault; and when the besiegers drew off their forces, it was clear that all resistance was at an end.

Upon the morning of the 16th of August, 1521, the Aztecs signified their submission. Cortes withdrew his forces from the dreary and pestilential ruins to Cojohuacan; and the remnant of the Aztecs were allowed to retire to their neighbouring towns, by the northern and western causeways. They were not more than thirty or forty thousand in number; at least one hundred and twenty thousand souls having, by the most moderate computation, perished in the siege. In three days the last of the forlorn exiles had dis-

appeared; and all that remained of the imperial Tenochtitlan was a bare and desert island, encumbered with ruins, strewed with carcasses, and scathed by fire. Such was the final extinction of Mexican grandeur and independence.

ENTERPRISE ON THE PRAIRIES.

FROM "Gregg's Commerce of the Prairies" we glean a few extracts. The author, for the benefit of his health, made several journeys across the Prairies to Santa Fé; and such was the love that he acquired for prairie life, that he was induced to engage in the commerce carried on between the United States and Mexico. Passing over those portions which refer to the Santa Fé trade, we select a few of the incidents which occurred during his trips.

MEETING WITH INDIAN WARRIORS.

THEY were on horseback, and suddenly appeared from behind the ravines:—

AN imposing array of death-dealing savages! There was no merriment in this! It was a genuine alarm—a tangible reality! These warriors, however, as we soon discovered, were only the vanguard of a "countless host," who were by this time pouring over the opposite ridge, and galloping directly towards us. The waggons were soon irregularly "formed" upon the hill-side: but in accordance with the habitual carelessness of caravan traders, a great portion of the men were unprepared for the emergency. Scores of guns were "empty," and as many more had been wetted by the recent showers, and would not "go off." Here was one calling for

balls—another for powder—a third for flints. Exclamations such as, "I've broke my ramrod"—"I've spilt my caps"—"I've rammed down a ball without powder"—"My gun is choked; give me yours"—were heard from different quarters; while a timorous "greenhorn" would perhaps cry out, "Here, take my gun; you can outshoot me!" The more daring bolted off to encounter the enemy at once, while the timid and cautious took a stand with presented rifle behind the waggons. The Indians who were in advance made a bold attempt to press upon us, which came near costing them dearly; for some of our fiery backwoodsmen more than once had their rusty but unerring rifles directed upon the intruders, some of whom would inevitably have fallen before their deadly aim, had not some of the more prudent traders interposed. The Indians made demonstrations no less hostile, rushing with ready strung bows, upon a portion of our men, who had gone in search of water; and mischief would perhaps have ensued, had not the impetuosity of the warriors been checked by the wise men of the nation. The Indians were collecting around us, however, in such great numbers, that it was deemed expedient to force them away, so as to resume our march, or at least to take a more advantageous position. Our company was therefore mustered and drawn up in "line of battle;" and, accompanied by the sound of a drum and fife, we marched towards the main group of the Indians. The latter seemed far more delighted than frightened with this strange parade and music—a spectacle they had, no doubt, never witnessed before; and perhaps look-

ed upon the whole movement rather as a complimentary salute than a hostile array; for there was no interpreter through whom any communication could be conveyed to them. But, whatever may have been their impressions, one thing is certain—that the principal chief (who was dressed in a long red coat of strouding, or coarse cloth) appeared to have full confidence in the virtues of his calumet, which he lighted, and came boldly forward to meet our warlike corps, serenely smoking the "pipe of peace." Our captain now taking a whiff with the savage chief, directed him by signs to cause his warriors to retire. This most of them did, to rejoin the long train of squaws and papooses, with the baggage, who followed in the rear, and were just then seen emerging from beyond the hills. Having slowly descended to the banks of the stream, they pitched their wigwams or lodges; over five hundred of which soon bespeckled the ample valley before us, and at once gave to its recently meagre surface the aspect of an immense Indian village. The entire number of the Indians, when collected together, could not have been less than from two to three thousand—although some of our company insisted that there were at least four thousand souls. In such a case they must have mustered nearly a thousand warriors, while we were but little over two hundred strong. Still, our superior arms and the protection afforded by the waggons, gave us considerably the advantage, even supposing an equality in point of valour. However, the appearance of the squaws and children soon convinced us that, for the present at least, they had no hostile

intentions; so we also descended into the valley and formed our camp a few hundred yards below them. The "capitanes" or head men of the whites and Indians, shortly after met, and, again smoking the calumet, agreed to be friends.

ATTACK FROM PAWNEES.

On the evening of the 10th our camp was pitched in the neighbourhood of a ravine in the prairie, and as the night was dark and dreary, the watch tried to comfort themselves by building a rousing fire, around which they presently drew, and commenced "spinning long yarns" about Mexican fandangoes and black-eyed damsels. All of a sudden, the stillness of the night was interrupted by a loud report of fire-arms, and a shower of bullets came whizzing by the ears of the heedless sentinels. Fortunately, however, no one was injured; which must be looked upon as a very extraordinary circumstance, when we consider what a fair mark our men, thus huddled round a blazing fire, presented to the rifles of the Indians. The savage yells, which surrounded from every part of the ravine, bore very satisfactory testimony that this was no false alarm: and the "Pawnee whistle," which was heard in every quarter, at once impressed us with the idea of its being a band of that famous prairie banditti. Every man sprang from his pallet with rifle in hand; for, upon the prairies, we always sleep with our arms by our sides or under our heads. Our Commanche seemed at first very much at a loss what to do. At last, thinking it might possibly be a

band of his own nation, he began a most boisterous harangue in his vernacular tongue, which he continued for several minutes; when, finding that the enemy took no notice of him, and having become convinced also, from an occasional Pawnee word which he was able to make out, that he had been wasting breath with the mortal foes of his race, he suddenly ceased all expostulations, and blazed away with his rifle, with a degree of earnestness which was truly edifying, as if convinced that that was the best he could do for us. It was now evident that the Indians had taken possession of the entire ravine, the nearest points of which were not fifty yards from our waggons; a warning to prairie travellers to encamp at a greater distance from whatsoever might afford shelter for an enemy. The banks of the gully were low, but still they formed a good breastwork, behind which the enemy lay ensconced, discharging volleys of balls upon our waggons, among which we were scattered. At one time we thought of making an attempt to rout them from their fortified position; but being ignorant of their number, and unable to distinguish any object through the dismal darkness which hung all around, we had to remain content with firing at random from behind our waggons, aiming at the flash of their guns, or in the direction whence any noise appeared to emanate. Indeed their yelling was almost continuous, breaking out every now and then in the most hideous screams and vociferous chattering, which were calculated to appal such timorous persons as we may have had in our caravan. All their screeching and whooping, however, had no effect—they could not make

our animals break from the enclosure of the waggons, in which they were fortunately shut up; which was, no doubt, their principal object for attacking us.

The enemy continued the attack for nearly three hours, when they finally retired, so as to make good their retreat before daylight. As it rained and snowed from that time till nine in the morning, their "sign" was almost entirely obliterated, and we were unable to discover whether they had received any injury or not. It was evidently a foot party, which we looked upon as another proof of their being Pawnees; for these famous marauders are well known to go forth on their expeditions of plunder without horses, although they seldom fail to return well mounted. Their shot had riddled our waggons considerably. We had the gratification to believe, however, that they did not get a single one of our animals: a horse which broke away at the first onset, doubtless made his escape; and a mule which was too badly wounded to travel, was dispatched by the muleteers, lest it should fall into the hands of the savages, or into the mouths of the wolves; and they deemed it more humane to leave it to be eaten dead than alive. We also experienced considerable damage in our stock of sheep, a number of them having been devoured by wolves. They had been scattered at the beginning of the attack; and, in their anxiety to fly from the scene of action had jumped, as it were, into the very jaws of their ravenous enemies.

ADVENTURE WITH BEARS.

THE black and grizzly bear, which are met with in the mountains, do not appear to possess the great degree of ferocity, however, for which the latter especially is so much famed farther north. It is true they sometimes descend from the mountains into the cornfields; and wonderful stories are told of dreadful combats between them and the *Labradores*. But, judging from a little adventure I once witnessed with an old female of the grizzly species, encountered by a party of us along the borders of the great prairies, I am not disposed to consider either their ferocity or their boldness very terrible. It was noon, and our company had just halted to procure some refreshment, when we perceived a group of these interesting animals—a dam, with a few cubs fully as large as common wolves—busily scratching among the high grass in an adjacent valley, as if in search of roots or insects. Some of our party immediately started after the brutes, in hopes of getting a shot at them, in which however they were disappointed. One or two "runners" who had followed on horseback, then made a desperate charge upon the enemy, but the old monster fled to the thickets, without even so much as turning once upon her pursuers, although one of her cubs was killed, and the remainder were scattered in different directions during the general scamper.

The sequel of the adventure seems to confirm me in the opinion I had of the exaggerated stories in regard to these much dreaded animals. We had in our company a giant blacksmith and general repairer of

ADVENTURE WITH BEARS.

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waggons, named Campbell, who measured full six feet eight in his stockings, and was besides, elegantly proportioned. Independently of his universal utility as Jack-of-all-trades, our colossal friend was in such constant requisition, that he might well have given origin to the western phrase of one's being "a whole team;" for if a waggon happened to be in the mire, he was worth more than the whole team to extract it. He was, in short, the most appropriate subject for a regular grizzly-bear scrape. On the occasion I speak of, Campbell had laid himself down under the shade of a bush, upon the bank of a precipice about ten feet high, and was taking a comfortable snooze, while his companions were sporting in the neighbourhood. During the chase, one of the young bears, which had been scared from its mother, was perceived leaping down the trail towards our camp, apparently heedless of the company. Several of us seized our guns; and as it sprung across the ravine, through a break near the spot where Campbell lay, we gave it a salute which caused it to tumble back wounded into the branch, with a frightful yell; Campbell being roused by the noise, started up with the rapidity of lightning, and tumbled over the precipice upon the bear. "Whaugh," growled Master Bruin. "Murder!" screamed the giant. "Clench it, Campbell, or you're gone!" exclaimed his comrades, for no one could venture to shoot for fear of killing the man. The latter, however, had no notion of closing clutches with his long-clawed antagonist, but busied himself in vain attempts to clamber up the steep bank; while the bear, rising upon his hinder

legs, and staring a moment at the huge frame of the blacksmith, soon made up his mind as to the expediency of turning tail, and finally succeeded in making his escape, notwithstanding a volley of shot that were fired after him.

DISASTERS OF A PARTY OF TRADERS.

Mr Gregg briefly relates the disasters which befell a small party of American Traders, on their return home in the winter of 1832-3.

The party consisted of twelve men, chiefly citizens of Missouri. Their baggage, and about ten thousand dollars in specie, were packed upon mules. They took the route of the Canadian river, fearing to venture on the northern prairies at that season of the year. Having left Santa Fé in December, they had proceeded without accident thus far, when a large body of Commanches and Kiawas were seen advancing towards them. Being well acquainted with the treacherous and pusillanimous disposition of those races, the traders prepared at once for defence; but the savages having made a halt at some distance, began to approach one by one, or in small parties, making a great show of friendship all the while, until most of them had collected on the spot. Finding themselves surrounded in every direction, the travellers now began to move on, in hopes of getting rid of the intruders. But the latter were equally ready for the start, and mounting their horses kept jogging on in the same direction. The first act of hostility perpetrated by the Indians, proved fatal to one of the American traders, named Pratt, who was shot dead

while attempting to secure two mules which had become separated from the rest. Upon this, the companions of the slain man immediately dismounted and commenced a fire upon the Indians, which was warmly returned, whereby another man of the name of Mitchell was killed.

By this time, the traders had taken off their packs, and piled them around for protection; and now, falling to work with their hands, they very soon scratched out a trench deep enough to protect them from the shot of the enemy. The latter made several desperate charges, but they seemed too careful of their own personal safety, notwithstanding the enormous superiority of their numbers, to venture too near the rifles of the Americans. In a few hours, all the animals of the traders were either killed or wounded, but no personal damage was done to the remaining ten men, with the exception of a wound in the thigh received by one, which was not at the time considered dangerous.

During the siege, the Americans were in great danger of perishing from thirst, as the Indians had complete command of all the water within reach. Starvation was not so much to be dreaded, because, in case of necessity, they could live on the flesh of their slain animals, some of which lay stretched close around them. After being pent up for six hours in this horrible hole, during which time they had seldom ventured to raise their heads above the surface without being shot at, they resolved to make a bold sortie in the night, as any death was preferable to the fate which awaited them there. As there was not an ani-

mal left that was at all in a condition to travel, the proprietors of the money gave permission to all to take and appropriate to themselves whatever amount each man could safely undertake to carry. In this way, a few hundred dollars were started with, of which, however, but little ever reached the United States. The remainder was buried deep in the sand, in hopes that it might escape the cupidity of the savages, but to very little purpose, for they were afterwards seen by some Mexican traders making a great display of specie.

With every prospect of being discovered, overtaken, and butchered, but resolved to sell their lives as dearly as possible, they at last emerged from their hiding-place, and moved on silently and slowly, until they found themselves beyond the Indian camps. Often did they look back in the direction where from three to five hundred savages were supposed to watch their movements, but much to their surprise no one appeared to be in pursuit. The Indians, believing no doubt that the property of the traders would come into their hands, appeared willing to let the spoliated adventurers depart without further molestation.

The destitute travellers having run themselves short of provisions, and being no longer able to kill game for want of materials to load their rifles with, they were soon reduced to the necessity of sustaining life upon the roots and tender bark of trees. After travelling for several days in this desperate condition, with lacerated feet and utter prostration of mind and body, they began to disagree among themselves about the route to be pursued, and eventually separated into

two distinct parties. Five of these unhappy men steered a westward course, and, after a succession of sufferings and privations which almost surpassed belief, they reached the settlements of the Creek Indians, near the Arkansas River, where they were treated with great kindness and hospitality. The other five wandered about in the greatest state of distress and bewilderment, and only two finally succeeded in getting out of the mazes of the wilderness.

THE CROCODILE MUMMY-PITS OF MAABDEH.

THE entrance to the mummy-pit we found to be simply a perpendicular hole, cut in the limestone hill, about fifteen feet deep, the sides irregular blocks, and without any means for descent but fissures which occur among them. Having lighted candles, secured the phosphorus-box, in case of the lights being extinguished by bats, and removed the coverings from our heads, we, one by one, lowered ourselves down the mouth of the pit, and perceived an opening in the rocks leading from the left. This gallery, originally high enough, no doubt, for people to traverse with convenience, was so choked up by sand, which had drifted down from the mouth of the pit, and by the falling of blocks of stone from above, that it seemed almost impassable; but the Arabs urged us on, and with one before us, followed by Youssouf, both bearing candles, ourselves next, and two more guides

bringing up the rear, also with lights, we on all hands and knees commenced our investigations. It would never do to confess to feeling nervous in such a sitution, and yet it was far from pleasant to find ourselves gradually losing the glimmering of daylight which streamed down the aperture of the rock, with intense darkness and an unknown road before us, and our way perpetually blocked by stones, whose angularity was sufficiently evident as we crawled over them; but it was possible still to advance, and as the passage seemed clear of bats, we had, as explorers of a mummy-pit, nothing reasonably to complain of. Soon, however, the guides motioned us to lie flat, as the roof was lower, and the blocks of stone sharp above us; so thus, serpent-wise, with our faces close to the ground, we drew and worked ourselves round windings in the gallery and along shifting sand and stones, in a close, hot atmosphere, unvisited by the light of day, until we found ourselves in a chamber some fifteen feet high. The whole of the mummies, whatever they might have been, were removed from here, but the rocky floor was covered with fragments of human and other bones, some completely pulverized.

The size of this chamber probably in its greatest extent, is forty feet, and wholly stalactitical, but blackened with the oil and smoke of torches, and to the right hand lies an enormous block of stone, a portion evidently of the roof. Opposite to the opening leading to the first gallery, we found another; and, our zeal a little increased by having seen this large chamber, we again adopted our crawling position, and found a gallery to which the sand of the mountain

had not penetrated, it is true, but which was more difficult to traverse than the first, in consequence of the huge blocks which had fallen from the roof, and in large masses obstructed the way. The heat here, too, was considerably greater, and the impurity of the atmosphere sensibly felt, producing headache and oppression of the chest; the candles (for we had no torches) gave but a dim uncertain light, and we were a long way from our point of entrance; while fresh in our memory was the story of Mr Legh's Arab guides, who, as they preceded him in these galleries, fell dead from the effects of mephitic vapours. None of these circumstances were very encouraging, and working along for a hundred yards on hands and knees is rather a tiring method of advancing, particularly with a road rugged and winding as this was. But still the crocodiles had not been seen; the end had not been accomplished; retreat, therefore, was impossible, and on went the party, until the end of the gallery appeared completely blocked up by a huge stone or ledge across it. On near approach, however, the difficulty vanished, and an aperture appeared sufficiently large for the entrance of each person singly, and in a horizontal position; but here bats in millions came rushing forth, shrieking like prisoned demons, and striking in blind terror against every thing in their way. Fortunately, our people had brought the lantern, or the whole party, unprepared for this, and unable to trace the windings of the galleries in darkness and alarm, might have been inclosed for ever in this fearful place, and become subjects of curiosity and wonder to the antiquaries of

future times. Our more provident party still pressed on, dismayed but for a moment by the scared and hateful birds, who, with a loud rushing noise, were hurrying from us to the outer chamber. The third gallery led to a spacious apartment, similar to that we had left, and like it, empty, with an opening to the right and left. The guide paused for a moment, and took that to the left, which led to another gallery, as close and narrow as the rest, the same, as we conjectured, from which Mr Legh and his party were constrained to turn, and where his Arabs perished. Soon, the dragoman, who was in advance of the party, stopped: something impeded his progress; and, on inquiry, we found it be a human body, not in a mummied state, but the skin quite dry, and resembling rather wood than a thing which had once possessed life and animation. A few steps further, a second body lay similarly across the gallery, and this Youssouf also moved aside before the party could advance, leaving the conviction that both were, in fact, the bodies of the poor Arabs.

Mr Legh and his companions escaped from this gallery to be hunted for murder by the Arabs of Maabdeh and Manfaloot, and as narrowly avoided that fate as they did the mephitic vapour of the pit; yet had they not reached the chamber of crocodiles, nor seen a mummy. Our people, however, no way daunted by the dead bodies, now removed from the path, crept on; and at length all were rewarded by entering a chamber, as large as the two first, but not more than six feet high, in consequence of the floor being filled up to a considerable depth by stones and

rubbish. Here, then, were the long-sought mummies. On every side, bodies piled on bodies lay enveloped in mats, coffinless, but apparently undisturbed from the time of burial. Youssouf unrolling two or three, cerecloths were found beneath the mats, and bundles of small mummied crocodiles bound up with the bodies, some on either side, and others on the chest, in the place where the scarabæi are commonly placed. The size of these crocodiles was singularly small, but the contrast in size between the creature when very young and when full-grown is one of its peculiar characteristics, the egg it lays not being larger than that of a goose. The crocodiles we found were perfectly preserved, even to the teeth and feet; but still, no one's satisfaction was complete until, in a small chamber opening from the large one, was discovered a huge full-grown crocodile, perfectly preserved, the *genius loci*. The aperture in front of the chamber was now much less than the body of the crocodile, so that he was safe from the chance of being dragged from his honourable retreat, by common means at least. But all was gained, and on hands and knees the whole party commenced their backward course, full of triumph, and yet not sorry to leave doubts and apprehension, bats and darkness, mummies and dead Arabs, all behind; and pleasant indeed at the end of the serpentine windings was it to catch a glimpse of sunshine, to feel a breath of pure air, and at length to emerge from this loathsome pit, and stand erect, safe from the mephitic vapours and atmosphere of death.—*Mrs Postans' Oriental Character.*

DEER-STALKING IN GLENARTNEY.

FROM Sir T. D. Lauder's beautiful volume descriptive of the Queen's visit to Scotland in 1842.

CLEAR and beautiful was the dawn of morning on Monday, the 12th of September, betokening weather perfectly delightful for carrying into effect the deer-stalking expedition to the forest of Glenartney, which Lord Willoughby de Eresby had planned for the amusement of his royal guest, Prince Albert.

Glenartney has been already alluded to when passing down Stratherne, by Comrie, the river Ruchill there joining the Erne, having its origin in the forest. Let not the Cockney suppose that the word forest necessarily implies a district covered with noble oaks, chesnuts, or trees of any other description. The first meaning of the word may have been that of a wooded country, but in our old times it was applied to a large extent of surface, whether wooded or not, set apart by royal edict for the wild beasts and fowls of chase, certain laws being established within its precincts. A forest, as the word was strictly taken in early times, could not be in the hands of any one but the king; but, in later periods, forests have become the property of subjects, or have been created by them, though without being protected by forest laws. The royal forest in the Isle of Wight, in which there is not a tree, is not the only English example still remaining of the view here taken of this old meaning of the word. Where the soil was rich, such a tract of country, so appropriated, naturally became

woodland, and in this way the original meaning of the word may have again become applicable. From this cause, the forests long appropriated in Scotland as a range for red-deer, may have some woods about their lower outskirts, as that of Braemar and some others; but, in general, they are altogether devoid of trees, or even bushes, the defences of the stag consisting in the wild nature of the ground—its bareness which allows him to see strange objects at the distance of several miles from the spot where he and his hinds may be feeding—and in the strongholds of the steep and lofty mountains, in the seamed parts of which are found those large hollows sloping outwards, surrounded on three sides by high and frequently inaccessible and often shivered precipices, called, in deer-stalking language, by their Gaelic name of corries, in which the deer delight to dwell, and from which they issue to bound upwards to the breezy ridges of the mountains for better outlook, or to follow the rills that issue from them downwards to better pasture below. He who, in painting an ideal picture of a Highland forest, therefore, should select a portion of the noble oak scenery of the New Forest, or of Windsor, for his study from nature, would commit a most lamentable error.

The forest of Glenartney has on its north and western borders, the high mountains of Stuck-a-chrom, Benvoirlich, and their associates, rising out of the southern side of Locherne. The deer have it thus in their power to occupy some lofty positions, and the intricacies produced by the lower supports of

these mountains are such as to give them great advantages. The forest abounds in streams, having rich vegetation on their banks, and its whole surface is naturally good deer pasture. In the words of old Donald Cameron, Lord Willoughby's head forester, who has now been in Glenartney upwards of forty years, "The nature of the ground is good and healthy, interspersed with heath and *rashes*, and natural grass, and it is beautiful to the eye of a traveller"—that is, to the eye of a traveller, who, like Donald, has all his life been looking after deer—or to the eye of the enthusiastic traveller, who loves to look upon nature in some of her wildest forms; but for the eye that loves the deep repose of nature, beneath the giant limbs of oaks, whose thick-set tops, spreading over roods of ground, produce an ever-during shade throughout the whole of the grand aisles of that leafy edifice, supported by their huge and knotted stems, save where a transient sunbeam may break through some accidental opening above to chequer the solemn ground—such a scene as Glenartney would be absolute barrenness.

It had been announced by Lord Willoughby that Mr Campbell of Monzie, one of the most active deer-stalkers in Scotland, and one who is well acquainted with every foot of the forest of Glenartney, should accompany Prince Albert to the forest, for the purpose of taking him up to a deer. The prince and Lord Willoughby set out in an open carriage and four for the lodge of Dalclathick, at six o'clock in the morning, attended by his royal highness's jäger.

The distance to the lodge is ten miles; and, on reaching it at seven o'clock, they found Mr Campbell of Monzie, and Donald Cameron, faithful to *tryst*.

The moment the open carriage stopped, the prince laid his hand on its side, and vaulted lightly out upon the ground. Advancing towards Monzie with the utmost affability, he said, "Mr Campbell, I understand you are to show me the forest, and how to kill a deer?" Monzie replied he had been informed that he was to have that honour. He trusted that the prince would excuse that free-masonry which was essential in deer-stalking, as it was hopeless to attempt to succeed without it, and that for himself he was not one of the court, courtly, and would require the indulgence of his royal highness. The prince assured him that he would place himself entirely under his guidance, and that he would follow it implicitly. He then put some questions about the weather —asked whether it was favourable for the sport, and inquired whether his dress, which was a gray Glengarry bonnet, with a shooting-coat and trousers of the same colour, would do for deer-stalking; and on Monzie assuring him that it was in all respects perfect, he proposed starting immediately for the mountains of the forest, which were seen rising in huge and lofty masses at some miles' distance towards the north. A Highland pony was in readiness, which he mounted. Lord Willoughby and Mr Campbell both offered to carry his rifle, but this he would by no means allow, and he instantly slung it over his own back, saying, "I am riding, and you are walking;" and from thenceforward the prince continued

to carry it himself during the whole day. Lord Willoughby had arranged that the party should include no one but the individuals already mentioned, as nothing is more destructive to deer-stalking than being followed by "*a tail.*" It happened, from some accident, that Monzie did not bring any hounds with him.

The party now went rapidly up the side of the forest burn, and after a considerable walk, Monzie discovered a large herd of deer on the brow of Coir'-eangain, or the Hindsback-corry. The prince's eye glistened with delight; and certainly never were deer beheld to greater advantage, for the morning sun now shone fully upon them; and there is no position in which those antlered denizens of the mountains appear so gloriously as when thus seen on a breezy brow, high above the hunter's eye, with their coats glistening under as bright a sun as then shone upon them, and with so clear a sky behind—all these circumstances tending to make them look as aërial as those not very deeply learned in the mysteries of deer-stalking frequently find them to be.

As it was manifestly impossible to stalk these deer directly from hence, they hastened up the march burn, with the intention of getting to a pass to the northward of the base of Coir'-eangain, with the hope that they might move thither. But they were so wild, and the ground so smooth, that they changed their position, and went too high up the hill to enable the deer-stalkers to effect their object as at first planned. They were now, therefore, compelled to change their stratégie, and to make a hasty detour

by Leathad-na-Sgéith, or the Wing Brae, so as to endeavour to meet the herd as they were in the act of crossing from Coir'-eangain into Coir'-gairian. To effect this, they had to go round the foot of Coir'-eangain, and then to climb to the summit of the highest ridge of mountains extending round the forest. This involved the necessity of a smart and arduous walk of an hour.

After they had gone about half-way up the mountain, the prince dismounted for the day. The party then moved on in Indian files, and in deep silence, though at a very rapid pace, towards the brow of the hill above Coir'-coinean (Coir'-coin-fhirm, White Hound Corry). The deer made a slight check there, and appeared disposed to break at another part of the hill; but finally they set their heads straight for Coir'-coinean. It then became a race whether deer or deer-stalkers should get thither first; and after a great deal of toil and fatigue, it terminated considerably in favour of the deer; for just as the prince got to the point whence the shot is usually obtained, the hindmost of the herd were dropping out of sight into Coir'-coinean. But Prince Albert seized his rifle, and though the deer nearest to him could not have been at a less distance than 150 yards, and bounding at full speed, he fired and wounded it. It was afterwards found within a few hundred yards of the place where the shot was fired; but at that moment circumstances were too exciting to allow them to look for it, as they expected that some of those in advance would hear the report and move. The prince, indeed, not aware that his shot had been fatal, was doomed

whilst his rifle was reloading, to experience that feeling of mingled delight and regret to which every deer-stalker is exposed when beholding the glorious spectacle of a noble herd sweeping rapidly into the gloomy shadow of the glen below, the serenity of his passing thoughts being at the same time disturbed by the consciousness that one of them "hath ta'en a hurt;" and that, after all, his hope of getting him is but small indeed; for every one who has followed this princely sport must know full well that nothing short of *instant* death, which is but rarely produced, can secure the immediate possession of a deer. The view from the summit above Leathad-na-Sgéith is one of the grandest in the whole forest; for, at the foot of the deep Coir'coinean, the yet more profound and much more rugged Glen-Coinean opens to the eye, and carries it on through a long perspective of barren wildness and magnificence, one huge form succeeding another, till the flight of human vision rests on the snow-clad summit of Benvoirlich. The contemplation of this wild Highland scene, with the dusky deer darting away far off in the glen, called a burst of admiration from the prince worthy of the most enthusiastic mountaineer, and would have gratified any true Highland heart.

Again the party proceeded with great expedition, in the hope of meeting some deer which they saw before them near Stuc-na-càbaig, or the Cheese Cliff. When they had almost reached the top of the Stron, it became necessary to advance more leisurely, and with some degree of caution, and having got to a place a little way from the brow of the hill, they

began to move forward on their knees, as there was reason to hope that the deer were at no great distance. As it was absolutely essential that silence should be preserved, Monzie whispered to the old forester, "Hold the prince back, Donald, whilst I creep to the brow to see where the deer are." "Hoo am I to do that?" replied Donald Cameron. "Just lay hold of his arm if the deer come forward, until it is time to fire." "Haud the prince!" said Donald, with a degree of astonishment which, forty years' deer-stalker as he was, had nearly deprived him of his presence of mind—"haud the prince! I'll no do that. Ye maun just grip him yoursel, Monzie, and *I'll* look owre the broo." Monzie was obliged to consent to old Donald's arrangement, and, to insure success, was compelled to take the necessary liberty with the prince's arm. The herd did not come forward, but turned back round the hill. Indeed the wind was so unsteady, and shifted so often during that day, that the deer were wilder, and much more difficult to approach, than Monzie, or even old Donald himself, had ever before seen them. But throughout all the vicissitudes of the sport to which the prince was exposed, whilst he was quite as eager as any other young deer-stalker, he exhibited a patience and good-humour under disappointment which few old ones have ever possessed; and well indeed were these qualities tried during that day. Shortly after this they descried a single deer standing by himself on a brow considerably in advance, and somewhat below them. The prince had by this time shown so much promptly-acquired knowledge of the work, that his

conductor was anxious he should stalk this deer by himself, and his royal highness was equally desirous to make the attempt. Off he set, therefore, entirely alone, creeping and wading on his hands and knees through a long succession of wet moss hags, sinking deep into their black chaos, now unseen, and then again appearing, until at length, when he had been for some time out of sight, the smoke of his rifle curled up from behind a knoll, its smart crack was heard, and although it turned out that the deer had gone off, it was afterwards retrieved.

The party then proceeded to the Stron-nam-breidh-leag, or Cranberry Snout. Just before reaching it, the prince fired at a deer and broke its leg. It has already been said that they had no deer-hounds with them; but one of the under foresters having joined them a little before this, they left him to look after and watch the movements of the wounded animal, and hurried forward to the brow of a hill at the back of the Stron, as they saw a herd making for a pass in a small rocky burn before them. They were pushing on in Indian file, and in double quick time, through some deep moss hags, the prince walking as if he had been a native of these mountains, when Monzie suddenly descried the points of a horn appearing over a brow below. Thus immediately perceiving that the herd had changed its course, he had just time to seize the prince's arm with his left hand, and to reach the nearest part of old Donald's ancient person with the toe of his right foot—such liberties being considered as quite complimentary in deer-stalking, and at all times extremely gratifying, as conveying the pleasing intelli-

gence that there are deer in sight. The prince and Monzie squatted like hares in their forms, and down went Donald on his back, partly from the kick, and partly from instinctive feeling; but it was this last that twitched up his features into that exquisite grin of happiness with which his countenance was moved as he lay on his back among the heather. All three were thus concealed from the deer, and the herd continued to draw slowly over the brow where they first appeared, and passed round the hill. Now came that glorious and exciting moment in deer-stalking, when the prospect of having your most sanguine hopes crowned with success is immediate, and where, at the same time, the smallest untoward accident may altogether blast them. The prince eagerly demanded, "What am I to do?" "Up! up!" cried Monzie. "Nothing for it now but a rush down that moss hag; never mind the wet!" But he might have spared the latter advice; for before the words were well uttered, the prince was deep in the mysteries of that sable compound of vegetable matter, to explain the nature of which so many large volumes have been written both by philosophical and practical men. Down, down they sped, sometimes running in that most painful of all positions, with the legs straight, and the back bent till the face almost touches the ground, and sometimes ploughing through the black bog on hands and knees, utterly regardless of future personal appearance, as well as of those awkward salutations which their limbs met with from knaggy roots of antediluvian trees deeply concealed in the soft and sinking matter. The deer was all they thought of.

And they just succeeded; for, by thus slanting the hill, they were enabled to arrive at a point precisely as the herd was crossing their line of advance at some little distance below them. The prince had only time to discharge one barrel before the herd disappeared from his sight. By that peculiar sound which is so gratifying to the ear of a deer-stalker, it was known that the ball had told, and some hair was observed to be *dusted* out of the point of the shoulder. His royal highness thought he had missed, and seemed somewhat incredulous when Monzie told him where he had seen the ball hit. But all doubt upon the question was speedily removed; for, while they were reloading the rifle, Donald trotted onwards a few hundred yards and came to a sudden stop, and with his eyes fixed on the ground like a pointer on game, began to fumble for his skian-dhu. "Ha!" exclaimed the prince, "he stops—he takes out his knife—it is dead!" And dead indeed it was; for on going up to it, there it lay with a hole through the point of the shoulder just as Monzie had said. "Ah!" exclaimed the prince, "it is a hind. I am *so* sorry that it is not a stag, for I promised the teeth of the first I killed to the queen." The teeth, which are considered by the superstitious as a charm against the evil eye, are likewise preserved as trophies by deer-stalkers, and various little ornaments are made of them, such as beautiful studs or buttons. It must be observed that this was the first deer that had dropped to hand, though those previously fired at were afterwards retrieved.

They now fell back round the hill into Coir'-dhu,

where much time was lost in waiting in vain for deer. Although every "dodge" was tried, there was no getting them to move towards the pass. "Have you killed many deer," demanded the prince of Monzie, "for I hear you are a great deer-stalker?" Monzie replied that he had shot about forty last year. "Ah!" said the prince jocularly, "that is the reason they will not come to me, for they know you are with me." They did come at last, however, but so irregularly, and they rattled so rapidly down a hill, that his chance was a very poor one. He fired notwithstanding, and again that short deafened sound, which it is as impossible for an experienced hunter to mistake as it is to describe, announced that the deer was hit, and he was accordingly found some hundred yards below.

The day being considerably advanced, they now turned their faces homewards, as Prince Albert was most anxious to accompany her majesty in her drive. In their way, they tried for another deer at the back of Leathad-na-Sgéith; but the herd having been previously disturbed, they found it impossible either to stalk or to drive them, as they are wont to do on such occasions; the animals kept continually wheeling round and round in a constant succession of evolutions, such as deer alone can accomplish. Every effort was made by the deer-stalkers, but without success, as, in spite of all their exertions, the herd broke away through a pass leading over the very summit of the mountain, and as the prince was stationed at the bottom of the hill, he was disappointed of a shot; and thus ended the chase.

Prince Albert would not wait for the pony to be brought to him, but proceeded on foot to the lodge at Dalclathick, where luncheon was prepared. His royal highness pressed Lord Wiloughby and Mr Campbell to sit down with him, and on their declining to do so, he filled three glases of champagne, and presenting one to each, drank the third himself to their healths, thanking them at the same time for the excellent sport he had enjoyed. Though Lord Willoughby de Eresby did not always go with the prince directly up to the places where he expected to have shots, yet he followed his royal highness the whole day with a rifle in his hand. The prince and Lord Willoughby got into the carriage, and drove off to Drummond Castle, which they reached by three o'clock. This day's slaughter produced two stags and three hinds, the trophies of which were all collected and sent to Windsor.

CHINESE WHALE FISHERY.

During the months of January and February, whales and their young resort to the coast of China, to the southward of Háiling shán, in great numbers; and during those months are pursued by the Chinese belonging to Háimán and the neighbouring islands with considerable success. The fish generally seemed to be in bad condition, and were covered with barnacles; and their object in resorting to that part of the coast during that season is probably to obtain food for themselves and young, from the great quantity of

squid, cuttle, and blubber fish which abound, and perhaps also to roll on the numerous sand-banks on the coasts, in order to clear their skin of the barnacles and other animals which torment them. They are often seen leaping their whole length out of the water, and coming down perpendicularly, so as to strike hard against the bottom. It is an exciting scene to see these boats out, in fleets of from 50 to 70, scattered over the bays as far as the eye can reach, under full sail, cruising about in search of their prey. Some steer straight a-head with the crew facing in different directions, observing the boats in their company, and leaving no chance of a spout escaping unnoticed. Upon others, the harpooner may be seen leaning over the bow ready to strike, and occasionally waving his right or left hand to direct the helmsman after the fish in its various turnings, the strictest silence being observed.

The boats are admirably adapted for following up the fish, as they sail well, make little noise in going through the water, and may be turned round and round in half the time and space that a foreign boat occupies. They are of different sizes; the smallest are about three tons, and the largest about twenty-five, carrying two small boats on her deck, and a crew of twelve men, of little draught of water and good length. On the bow is a crooked piece of timber, supported by a stancheon, which serves as a rest for the harpoon when not wanted; it enables the harpooner to stretch well over the bow, and see the fish as they pass below the boat. In this position they are struck,

for the weight of the harpoon prevents its being thrown any distance. Abaft the mainmast, the deck is rounded so as to form the roof of the cabin; on its top the whale-line is coiled. The harpoon has only one barb, and about fifteen inches from the point of the iron it is made with a socket; above which an eye is wrought, with a cord attached to the iron, to which the whale line is fastened, and stopped slack along the wooden shaft, so that when the fish is struck, the iron and the line tighten, the shaft draws out, and leaves less chance of the iron cutting out or loosing its hold of the skin of the fish. The whale-line is made of native hemp, and is about sixty or seventy fathoms long, and from four to six inches in circumference, according to the size of the boat. Great length of line is not required by them, for there is shoal-water all along the coast for many miles to seaward. One end of the line is fastened round the mainmast, the remainder is coiled away on the top of the house, and carried forward to the harpoon in the bow, where it is made fast, leaving a few fathoms of slack line.

The boats come out of the different harbours at daylight, and spread themselves along the coast; as soon as a fish is seen blowing, away they go in chase. If fortunate enough to get it fast, the sails are lowered, the bight of the line got aft, the rudder unshipped, and the boat allowed to tow stern foremost. The rest of the fleet, seeing the sail lowered, come up to assist; and as the fish now keeps pretty much on the surface in its struggle to get away, they soon manage

to fasten eight or ten harpoons into it, and in a couple of hours or so it is dead from wounds and the loss of blood. They always strike the fish a little behind the blowhole, on the top of the back. When the fish is dead, it is lashed alongside one or two of the boats to float it, and to allow the others to make their lines fast to the tail, and tow it on shore. It is surprising that the boats are not stove in, or completely destroyed from their manner of attacking the fish, *i. e.* sailing right over it and then striking it; but from the cool way in which the Chinese manage the whole affair, I have no doubt that personal accidents occur more seldom than with our fishermen. Their greatest danger is when two or three whales are struck together, in the same place, and swim round and over each other, so as to foul the lines. The boats are then drawn against each other, and over the fish, and run great risk of being soon swamped and stove in pieces. In one instance of this sort that fell under my observation, they had three of their boats swamped, but managed to clear the lines, and kill the fish in a most dexterous manner, after which some of the spare boats returned, and towed the damaged boats on shore. They had no lances in their boats, nor in fact any other weapon except the harpoons, which they refused to sell at any price. All the boats had parts of the whale's flesh salted, which they used as provisions. They refused to give any account of what use they made of the fish, and in general were not disposed to be very civil to strangers, which might arise from jealousy, or a fear of our interfering with their fishery. The fish are, I believe, what whalers call the

right whale, and were calculated by those on board to yield on an average fifty barrels of oil each.—*Simmond's Colonial Magazine.*

FLOODS AND AVALANCHES OF THE ALPS.

THE Alpine glaciers occupy either the higher valleys or else the sloping sides of the loftier mountains; and their gradual descent frequently brings them down into the greater or lower valleys, even so far as to urge them part of the way up the opposite slope. The manner in which this slow movement of glaciers may give rise to catastrophes, we shall presently explain; but we may first notice the *avalanches*, or falls of snow, to which the valleys are exposed.

During many months of the year, snow is almost constantly falling in the higher regions of the Alps; and by degrees the accumulation becomes so great, that the inclined sides of the mountains are not able to retain it; it becomes urged onwards by its own weight, and precipitated into the underlying valley, burying forests, villages, cattle, and, too often, human beings beneath it. There are different kinds of avalanches or snow-falls according to the season of the year. The *drift* avalanche, occurring in the early part of winter, results from a heavy snow-storm falling during a calm, and afterwards acted on by the wind. The snow is driven from one acclivity to another, increasing in its size as it proceeds, and at length the whole

body falls into the valley below; but as the snow is in a light or drift state, it does not produce so much mischief as the *rolling* avalanche, which occurs towards the end of winter. When the immense mass of winter snow becomes slightly thawed in the spring, the partially melted surface acquires a damp or clammy state, which makes the whole cohere into a more compact mass than the snow previously presented. The snow aggregates into balls or masses, which enlarge by constant additions as they descend; and at length it acquires such an enormous bulk and such a great velocity of movement, that it bears down everything before it, and either crushes or overturns trees, houses, and rocks. In 1749, a whole village was covered by one avalanche, and even removed from its site, and all with perfect stillness so far as the movement of the snow was concerned; a hundred persons were afterwards dug out of the snow, of whom about half still survived. Numerous other cases have been recorded of entire villages being overwhelmed; and there is a well-known narrative of a family who existed for a very long period enveloped in the snow of an avalanche.

Another kind of avalanche, known by the distinctive name of the *sliding*, occurs in the spring. When the surface-snow has been thawed on the lower and less steep declivities, the layers of snow nearest the ground become saturated with water, and thus the whole becomes loosened, giving rise to a gradual sliding movement, which brings the mass to the bottom, but without working so much mischief as the rolling masses. The *ice* avalanche is simply the fall-

ing of fragments of ice from the lower ends of the glaciers, loosened by the summer heat.

The manner in which a flood of water, called in the Alpine districts a *debacle*, may be occasioned by a glacier, will next claim our notice.

If there be a narrow gorge between two mountains, and descending to a lower valley beneath, it frequently happens that a glacier occupies this gorge, and descends by degrees till it completely crosses the lower valley. If, further, there be a river flowing through this lower valley, the glacier may so completely stop its path as to form a dam, behind which the waters of the river will rise and form into a lake. This was precisely the circumstance which occurred in Switzerland in 1818, when a fearful consequence followed. The details have been given by M. Esher de la Linth, in the "Philosophical Journal," and in one of the sketches by Captain Basil Hall, who visited the spot immediately after the catastrophe. From these two sources we will transcribe the chief details.

The Val de Bagnes, near Martigny, is a steep, narrow, rugged valley or rocky glen, running for about thirty or forty miles in an east and west direction among the mountains which separate Switzerland from Piedmont. The mountains have numerous glaciers in their gorges or upper valleys, and at one spot a glacier was so circumstanced as to protrude into the valley beneath. This valley has flowing along its bottom the river Dranse, a tributary to the Rhone, some distance above the junction of the latter with the Lake of Geneva. The banks of this river are in most places precipitous; but wherever there is a little spot

at all capable of being cultivated, there the hardy and industrious Switzer establishes himself, and builds one of the pretty cottages which have become such favourites among our painters and tourists; so that occasionally along the banks of the river there are little green patches to relieve the otherwise rugged scene. To connect these spots together, slender and rude bridges are thrown across the glen, which has the river flowing beneath, and thus the mountaineers connect themselves into something like a social community.

At a short distance from the upper end of this valley is the spot where the glacier intrudes its icy foot into the channel where the river flows. The glacier itself has not taken up this position, but blocks of ice and masses of snow, derived from it, have been precipitated from time to time, so that the stream has been for a long period more or less impeded. So long back as the year 1595, the valley was completely shut up by the descent of immense masses of ice. The water rose to an enormous height behind the barrier; and on the evening of Sunday, the 4th of June, in that year, the icy barrier having become weakened both by the pressure of the water and the heat of the sun, it gave way. The accumulated waters at once descended the valley with irresistible fury, carrying along with them masses of rock of enormous magnitude, tearing up everything that obstructed their progress, desolating the plains and valleys, and destroying the whole town of Martigny. Many of the inhabitants lost their lives, and the rest were reduced to the most abject poverty.

After this sad event the ice and snow continued to fall into the valley at this spot from the glacier above

as before; and at length they accumulated to such a mass as to resist the heat of the sun in summer, so that a further accumulation took place. The glacier itself, too, continued to travel downwards, so that by the year 1818, the bed of the stream was blocked up by a conical mass of ice and snow more than a hundred feet in height. For some time the river contrived to find its way under or through the crevices in this barrier; but at length, owing to fresh portions of mingled ice-rocks and snow being cast down from the sides of the glacier, the various channels or tunnels which the river had excavated became choked up. As soon as this took place, the waters, having no outlet, began to form a lake, which gradually increased to half a league in length, about seven hundred feet broad at the top, one hundred at the bottom, average depth two hundred feet, and was estimated to contain eight hundred millions cubic feet of water.

Such was the state of things in April 1818, and it is supposed that no harm would have resulted had the barrier been formed of rocky materials; for in that case, as soon as the water in the lake had risen to the top of the barrier it would have flowed over the edge, and merely formed a cascade. But as the barrier was formed of ice and snow principally, its permanence could not be so justly looked for; and the experienced Swiss, fully awakened to their danger, saw that, unless they adopted some very prompt and energetic measures, the weight of the accumulated waters would soon become too great for the weight of the dam of ice, and the whole reservoir would at once be dashed down the ravine, to the destruction of the villages,

fields, bridges, and mills, which, although built on sufficiently elevated spots to escape common overflows, would be swept away by such a one as this.

Under these circumstances, a bold and enterprising engineer of Martigny, M. Venetz, set about devising a plan which, though it could not prevent the evil, might possibly lessen it. He conceived that the water might be prevented from rising above a certain level in the lake, if a gallery or tunnel could be cut through the barrier of ice at such a height above the level of the lake at that time as would enable the work to be finished before the water should rise to that point. This required not only a very nice calculation, but a great degree of vigour and activity in the execution. The drift or gallery which M. Venetz proposed to bore through the barrier was made to slope downwards, in such a way that when the water rose to its upper end it should flow so rapidly through that it might act like a saw, and, by cutting down the ice, permit the water from the lake gradually to descend, till it was nearly emptied, and the mass of water be prevented from becoming an overmatch for the retaining wall of ice and snow.

These bold and ingenious operations were begun on the 10th of May and finished on the 13th of June. The gallery was sixty-eight feet long (being the thickness of the barrier at the spot chosen for the perforation), and during its formation the workmen were exposed to the constant risk of being crushed to pieces by the falling blocks of ice, or of being buried under the glacier itself. In the mean time the surface of the lake had risen sixty-two feet, but as it had not

yet reached the upper orifice of the gallery, M. Venetz, having secured a thorough opening through the barrier, set to work to cut down the floor of the tunnel till it met the rising waters, which then began to flow rapidly through the passage. The floor of the gallery went on wearing away, as had been anticipated, so fast that by the next day the lake had diminished in depth one foot; and this evidence of the power of the engineer began to inspire hope in the terrified inhabitants. On the following day the lake had subsided ten feet; and on the 16th, or only three days after the water had begun to flow through the tunnel, it had sunk forty-five feet. But there was soon to be an end to the hopeful anticipation.

As soon as the water flowed from the lower end of the gallery the velocity of the cascade melted the ice, and thus wore away the gallery at its mouth. The water which had penetrated the crevices of the glacier caused enormous fragments of ice to fall from the lower side of it, so that owing to these causes the body of the glacier, which formed the retaining wall of the lake, was so much diminished in thickness, that the floor of the gallery was reduced from six hundred feet to eight feet in length. As soon as the cascade had cut through the cone of ice, it attacked the shore of the neighbouring mountain, and undermined the glacier, by washing away the loose materials forming the bed of the stream on which this mass of ice had been piled up; and having carried it off by degrees, the water next forced an opening between the glacier and the foot of the mountain. As soon as this happened the water rushed out, the ice gave way with a tremendous

crash, the lake emptied itself in half an hour, and the sea of water which it contained was precipitated into the valley with a rapidity and violence truly terrible. The fury of this raging flood was first stayed by a narrow gorge, over which a bridge was thrown at a height of ninety feet. But it soon carried away the bridge, and spread itself over a wider part of the valley, then through another gorge, again through a wider part of the valley, and so on, till it reached the Rhône at Martigny, carrying away with it forests, rocks, houses, barns, and cultivated lands.

Captain Basil Hall arrived at Martigny seven weeks after the catastrophe, and thus speaks of what met his view, even in that place, where the fury of the flood had nearly spent itself:—" Many of the houses had been swept away, and all the remaining habitations gave token of having been invaded by the flood, which, even at the lower extremity of the town, where the valley is widest, had risen to the height of ten feet. All the hedges, garden-walls, and other boundary-lines and landmarks of every description, were, of course, obliterated under one uniform mass of detritus, which had levelled all distinctions in a truly sweeping and democratic confusion. In every house, without exception, there lay a stratum of alluvial matter several feet in thickness, so deposited that passages had to be cut through it along the streets, as we see roads cut in the snow after a storm. On that side of every building which faced up the valley, and consequently against which the stream was directed, there had been collected a pile of large stones under all, then a layer of trees, with their tattered branches lying one way,

and their roots the other; next came a net-work of timber-beams of houses, broken doors, fragments of mill-wheels, shafts of carts, handles of ploughs, and all the wreck and ruin of the numerous villages which the debacle had first torn to pieces and then swept down the valley in one undistinguishable mass. The lower part of the bark had been completely stripped off all the trees still standing, each one being charged on the side next the torrent with a singular accumulation of rubbish, consisting chiefly of uprooted trees and those wooden portions of the buildings which were bolted together. I ought to mention also, that from every house, and behind every tree, circumstanced as I have described, there extended down the valley a long tail or train of diluvial rubbish, deposited in the swell, or, as a sailor would say, in the eddy, under the lee of these obstacles. All over the plain large boulders, or erratic blocks, lay thickly strewed."—*From the Penny Magazine.*

BROCK THE SWIMMER.

Amongst the sons of labour, there are none more deserving of their hard earnings than that class of persons denominated Beachmen, on the shores of this kingdom. To those unacquainted with maritime affairs, it may be as well to observe, that these men are bred to the sea from their earliest infancy, are employed in the summer months very frequently as regular sailors or fishermen, and during the autumn,

winter, and spring, when gales are most frequent on our coast, in going off in boats to vessels in distress in all weathers, at the imminent risk of their lives; fishing up lost anchors and cables, and looking out for waifs (that is, anything abandoned or wrecked) which the winds and waves may have cast in their way. In our sea-ports these persons are usually divided into companies, between whom the greatest rivalry exists in regard to the beauty and swiftness of their boats, and their dexterity in managing them: this too often leads to feats of the greatest daring, which the widow and orphan have long to deplore. To one of these companies, known by the name of "Layton's," whose rendezvous and "look-out" is close to Yarmouth Jetty, Brock belongs, and of him the following anecdote is recorded.

About 1 P. M. on the 6th of October 1835, a vessel was observed at sea from this station with a signal flying for a pilot, bearing east, distant about twelve miles. In a space of time incredible to those who have not witnessed the launching of a large boat on a like occasion, the yawl "Increase," eighteen tons burden, belonging to Layton's gang, with ten men and a London branch pilot, was under weigh steering for the object of their enterprise. "I was as near as possible being left on shore," said Brock to me; "for at the time the boat was getting down to the breakers, I was looking at Manby's apparatus for saving the lives of persons on a wreck then practising, and but for the 'singing out' of my messmates, which caught my ear, should have been too late; but I reached in time to jump in with wet feet." About

four o'clock they came up with the vessel, which proved to be a Spanish brig, Paquette de Bilboa, laden with a general cargo, and bound from Hamburg to Cadiz, leaky, and both pumps at work. After a great deal of chaffering and haggering in regard to the amount of salvage (always the case with foreigners), and some little altercation with part of the boat's crew as to which of them should stay with the vessel, T. Layton (a Gatt pilot), J. Woolsey, and George Darling, boatmen, were finally chosen to assist in pumping and piloting her into Yarmouth harbour. The remainder of the crew of the yawl were then sent away. The brig at this time was about five miles to the eastward of the Newarp Floating Light, off Winterton on the Norfolk coast, the weather looking squally. On passing the light in their homeward course, a signal was made for them to go alongside, and they were requested to take on shore a sick man, and the poor fellow being comfortably placed upon some jackets and spare coats, they again shoved off and set all sail (three lugs): they had a fresh breeze from the W.S.W. And now again my readers shall have Brock's own words:—"There was little better than a pint of liquor in the boat, which the Spaniard had given us, and the bottle had passed once round, each man taking a mouthful, and about half of it was thus consumed. Most of us had got a bit of bread or biscuit in his hand, making a sort of light meal, and into the bargain I had hold of the main-sheet. We had passed the buoy of the Newarp a few minutes, and the light was about two miles astern: we had talked of our job (that is, our earnings), and had just

calculated that by ten o'clock we should be at Yarmouth." This hope proved fallacious. "Without the slightest notice of its approach, a terrific squall from the northward took the yawl's sails flat aback, and the ballast, which they had trimmed to windward, being thus suddenly changed to leeward, she was upset in an instant."

This dreadful catastrophe plunged all who were on board the yawl or boat into the sea. "It was terrible," said Brock, "to listen to the cries of the poor fellows, some of whom could swim, while others could not. Mixed with the hissing of the water and the howlings of the storm, I heard shrieks for mercy, and some that had no meaning but what arose from fear. I struck out, to get clear of the crowd, and in a few minutes there was no noise, for most of the men had sunk; and on turning round, I saw the boat was still kept from going down by the wind having got under the sails. I then swam back to her, and assisted an old man to get hold of one of her spars. The boat's side was about three feet under water, and for a few minutes I stood upon her; but I found she was gradually settling down, and when up to my chest, I again left her and swam away, and now for the first time began to think of my own awful condition. My companions were all drowned, at least I supposed so. How long it was up to this period from the boat's capsizing I cannot exactly say: in such cases, sir, there is no time: but now I reflected that it was half-past six P. M. just before the accident occurred; that the nearest land at that time was six miles distant; that it was dead low water, and the flood-tide setting

off the shore, making to the southward; therefore, should I ever reach the land, it would take me at least fifteen miles setting up with the flood before the ebb would assist me."

At this moment a rush horse-collar covered with old netting, which had been used as one of the boat's fenders, floated close to him, which he laid hold of, and getting his knife out, he stripped it of the network, and, by putting his left hand through it, was supported till he had cut the waistband of his petticoat trowsers, which then fell off. His striped frock, waistcoat, and neckcloth, were also similarly got rid off; but he dared not try to free himself of his oiled trousers, drawers, or shirt, fearing that his legs might become entangled in the attempt: he therefore returned his knife into the pocket of his trousers, and put the collar over his head, which, although it assisted in keeping him above water, retarded his swimming: and after a few moments, thinking what was best to be done, he determined to abandon it. He now, to his great surprise, perceived one of his messmates swimming a-head of him, but he did not hail him. The roaring of the hurricane was past; the cries of drowning men were no longer heard; and the moonbeams were casting their silvery light over the smooth surface of the deep, calm and silent as the grave over which he floated, and into which he saw this last of his companions descend without a struggle or a cry as he approached within twenty yards of him.

Up to this time, Winterton Light had served, instead of a land-mark, to direct his course; but the

tide had now carried him out of sight of it, and in its stead "a bright star stood over where" his hopes of safety rested. With his eyes steadfastly fixed upon it, he continued swimming on, calculating the time when the tide would turn. But his trials were not yet past. As if to prove the power of human fortitude, the sky became suddenly overclouded, and "darkness was upon the face of the deep." He no longer knew his course, and he confessed that for a moment he was afraid; yet he felt that "fear is but the betraying of the succours which reason offereth;" and that which roused him to farther exertion would have sealed the fate of almost any other human being—a sudden short cracking peal of thunder burst in stunning loudness just over his head, and the forked and flashing lightning at brief intervals threw its vivid fires around him. This, too, in its turn passed away, and left the wave once more calm and unruffled: the moon (nearly full) again threw a more brilliant light upon the bosom of the sea, which the storm had gone over without waking from its slumbers. His next effort was to free himself from his heavy-laced boots, which greatly encumbered him, and in which he succeeded by the aid of his knife. He now saw Lowestoft High Lighthouse, and could occasionally discern the tops of the cliffs beyond Gorlestone on the Suffolk coast. The swell of the sea drove him over the Crossand Ridge, and he then got sight of a buoy, which, although it told him his exact position, as he says, "took him rather aback," as he had hoped he was nearer the shore. It proved to be the chequered buoy of St Nicholas Gatt, off Yarmouth, and oppo-

site his own door, but distant from the land four miles. And now again he held council with himself, and the energies of his mind seemed almost superhuman: he had been five hours in the water, and here was something to hold on by: he could have even got upon the buoy, and some vessel might come near to pick him up; and the question was, could he yet hold out four miles? But, as he says, "I knew the night air would soon finish me, and had I stayed but a few minutes upon the buoy, and then altered my mind, how did I know that my limbs would again resume their office?" He found the tide (to use a sea term) was broke. It did not run so strong; so he abandoned the buoy, and steered for the land, towards which, with the wind from the eastward, he found he was now fast approaching. The last trial of his fortitude was now at hand, for which he was totally unprepared, and which he considers (sailors being not a little superstitious) the most difficult of any he had to combat. Soon after he left the buoy, he heard just above his head a sort of whizzing sound, which his imagination conjured into the prelude to the "rushing of a mighty wind," and close to his ear there followed a smart splash in the water, and a sudden shriek that went through him, such as is heard

"When the lone sea-bird wakes its wildest cry."

The fact was, a large gray gull, mistaking him for a corpse, had made a dash at him, and its loud discordant scream in a moment brought a countless number of these formidable birds together, all prepared to contest for and share the spoil. These large and power-

ful foes he had now to scare from their intended prey, and by shouting and splashing with his hands and feet, in a few minutes they vanished from sight and hearing.

He now caught sight of a vessel at anchor, but a great way off, and to get within hail of her he must swim over Corton Sands (the grave of thousands), the breakers at this time showing their angry white crests. As he approached, the wind suddenly changed, the consequence of which was, that the swell of the sea met him. And now again for his own description: —"I got a great deal of water down my throat, which greatly weakened me, and I felt certain that, should this continue, it would soon be all over, and I prayed that the wind might change, or that God would take away my senses before I felt what it was to drown. In less time than I am telling you I had driven over the sands into smooth water, the wind and swell came again from the eastward, and my strength returned to me as fresh as in the beginning."

He now felt assured that he could reach the shore, but he considered it would be better to get within hail of the brig, some distance to the southward of him, and the most difficult task of the two, as the ebb tide was now running, which, although it carried him towards the land, set to the northward; and to gain the object of his choice would require much greater exertion. But, said Brock, 'if I gained the shore, could I get out of the surf, which at this time was heavy on the beach? And supposing I succeeded in this point, should I be able to walk, climb the cliffs, and get to a house? If not, there was little chance

of life remaining long in me; but if I could make myself heard on board the brig, then I should secure immediate assistance. I got within two hundred yards of her, the nearest possible approach, and summoning all my strength, I sung out as well as if I had been on shore." Brock was fortunately answered from the deck, a boat was instantly lowered, and at half-past 1 A. M., having swam seven hours in an October night, he was safe on board the brig Betsy of Sunderland, coal laden, at anchor in Corton Roads, fourteen miles from the spot where the boat was capsized.

Once safe on board, "nature cried enough;" he fainted, and continued insensible for some time. All that humanity could suggest was done for him by the captain and his crew; they had no spirits on board, bnt they had bottled ale, which they made warm; and by placing Brock before a good fire, rubbing him dry, and putting him in hot blankets, he was at length, with great difficulty, enabled to swallow a little of the ale; but it caused excruciating pain, as his throat was in a state of high inflammation from inhaling so long the saline particles of sea and air, and it was now swollen very much, and, as he says, he feared he should be suffocated. He, however, after a little time, fell into a sleep, which refreshed and strengthened him, but he awoke to intense bodily suffering. Round his neck and chest he was perfectly flayed: the soles of his feet, his hands, and his hamstrings, were also excoriated. In this state, at about 9 A. M. the brig getting under weigh with the tide, he was put on shore at Lowestoft in Suffolk, whence he im-

mediately despatched a messenger to Yarmouth with the sad tidings of the fate of the yawl and the rest of her crew.

Being now safely housed under the roof of a relative, with good nursing and medical assistance, he was enabled to walk back to Yarmouth in five days from the time of the accident. The knife, which he considers as the great means of his being saved, is preserved with great care, and in all probability will be shown a century hence by his descendants. It is a common horn-handled knife, having one blade about five inches long. A piece of silver is now riveted on, and covers one side, on which is the following inscription, giving the names of the crew of the yawl when she upset:—"Brown, Emmerson, Smith, Bray, Budds, Fenn, Rushmere, Boult: Brock, aided by this knife, was saved, after being seven and a half hours in the sea, 6th Oct. 1835."

"It was a curious thing," said Brock, as I was listening to his extraordinary narrative, "that I had been without a knife for some time, and only purchased this two days before it became so useful to me; and having to make some boat's tholes, it was as sharp as a razor."

I know not what phrenologists might say to Brock's head, but I fancied, whilst studying his very handsome face and expression of countenance, that there I could see his heart. His bodily proportions, excepting height, are Herculean, standing only 5 feet 5 inches high; his weight, without any protuberance of body is 14 stone; his age at the time spoken of was 31; his manners are quiet, yet communicative;

he tells his tale neither tainted by bombast nor any clap-trap to awaken the sympathies of those of the "Wrexhill School" that have flocked about him. In the honest manliness of his heart he thus addressed me just before parting—"I always considered Emmerson a better swimmer than myself; but, poor fellow, he did not hold out long. I ought to be a good-living chap, sir, for three times have I been saved by swimming."

One trait more, which he did not tell me, and I have done. A very good subscription was made for the widows and children of Brock's unfortunate companions, and a fund being established for their relief, the surplus was offered to him. This was his answer, —"I am obliged to you, gentlemen, but, thank God, I can still get my own living as well as ever, and I could not spend the money that was given to the fatherless and the widow."

We may add, that Brock still survives, and is by no means a stranger to the inhabitants of Yarmouth and its neighbourhood, or the numerous visitors who frequent this part of the coast.—*From Chambers's Edinburgh Journal.*

STORY OF CEYLON.

THE following interesting anecdote is taken from "Bertha's Journal." To those who are not acquainted with this excellent children's book, it may be necessary to state that Bertha, the professed journalist, was a young girl, who passed her childhood at Rio Janeiro, and at the close of that period was sent on a visit to her friends in England, where she took notice of everything of an interesting kind, with a view of communicating the result.

THE last thing that Colonel Travers told us—for I am sorry to say he is gone away—was a pretty little story that he learned at Ceylon.

When the pearl-fishing in Condatchy Bay is going on, which is, he says, a most lively amusing scene, the Indians of the continent attend in great numbers, and being occasionally employed, they find ample opportunity to exercise their dexterity in sleight-of-hand and every sort of roguery. A set of these Indians contrived an ingenious method of cheating the boat-owner who employed them to open his oysters. While one of them made a preconcerted signal, whenever any pearls worth stealing were found, another, at the same moment, pretended to conceal about him a few small ones; and while he thus attracted the attention of the superintendants, and occasioned some bustle, the real thief was able to secrete his prize.

This contrivance was discovered by one of the poor Ceylonese who attended the washing of the pearls; he made it known to the master of the boat, and then, having reason to dread the vengeance of the thieves, he immediately fled. For some days he proceeded without shelter, till, arriving at the hut of

a farmer, who lived near a cinnamon plantation belonging to government, he supplicated him for relief and a lodging. This man was very poor; he had a large family, and could with difficulty shelter the fugitive for one night; besides, suspecting that the story was not quite true, and that it was the thief instead of the informer who told it, he was not willing to let him continue there, lest it should bring himself under suspicion. The Ceylonese was hurt at a doubt which he so ill deserved, and left the farmer early next morning, wandering he knew not whither, till he found himself, just when the sun was at its height, in a tangled and extensive forest. There he sat down to rest under a banyan-tree, whose self-rooted branches, entwined with creepers, had become nearly impenetrable; and there he determined to remain, as long as the forest supplied him with fruit and wild honey. Fear had taken such possession of him, that he was afraid to venture back to the more inhabited parts of the country; and yet he was here in equal dread of the *Bedahs*, a race who live in the forests and mountains, and who refuse to associate with the more civilised Ceylonese.

There are some tribes of the Bedahs in the southern part of the island who are rather less wild, and who even carry on a little traffic with the Ceylonese; but they are so afraid of being made prisoners, that when they want to procure cloth, knives, iron, or anything of that kind, they approach the town where it is to be had at night, and deposit in a conspicuous place a fair quantity of goods, such as ivory or honey, along with a *talipot* leaf, on which they contrive to

express what they want in exchange. On the next night they return, and generally find what they had demanded; for, if their requests are neglected, they seldom fail to revenge themselves.

Fruits of various kinds are so abundant in Ceylon, that, for some time, our poor fugitive was supplied with tolerable sustenance; and he often refreshed himself with the pure limpid water found in the bandura, a most curious plant, whose leaves terminate in a kind of tube, which contains nearly half a pint of water, covered by a little valve. At last, anxiety brought on a low fever, his strength failed, and he lay under the banyan, expecting to die of hunger. Early one morning he was roused from a sort of half stupor by hearing the low growl of a dog; and on opening his eyes, he saw a man stooping to place something near him; he tried to speak—but the person had vanished. He had perceived, however, by his tall light figure, and his copper complexion, that the stranger was a Bedah; and this would have been a very terrific idea, had he not smiled as he went away, and pointed to a little basket that he had left. Plantains and refreshing fruits were again within his reach, and the poor starving man ate thankfully, and felt as if he should live. Every morning he found a fresh supply in the same place; and as his strength began to return, the Bedah, besides the basket of fruit, added some more nutritious food. This was dried meat preserved in honey, to keep it from the air, and tied up in a particular substance which grows on the betel-tree, at the root of each leaf; it somewhat resembles a tough skin, and is of so strong a texture,

that it retains water. He wished to thank the Bedah, and frequently beckoned to him to stay; but the good-natured savage shook his head, and disappeared.

When he felt himself quite recovered, and his strength restored, he resolved to procure employment if possible, in the cinnamon-groves. The grand harvest, which lasts from April to August, had begun; and he hoped that, in some of the various processes of cutting, scraping, or barking, which are parcelled out among several classes of peelers, or *choliahs*, he might find work.

On his way from the forest, in passing by the same house where he had been permitted to lodge one night, he perceived that the farmer's cattle had broken through the inclosure, and made their way to the cinnamon-trees, on which they were then feasting. This tree is such a favourite with cattle, that they break down every fence to get to it; and most of the natives who live in the neighbourhood of those plantations are deterred from having cows, because all that are found trespassing there are forfeited. This poor creature knew that, by giving information to the head officer, he might receive a reward which would relieve him from distress; but he had a more generous mind. He hastened to the farmer, and assisted him to drive back the cows and repair the fence, before they were discovered. The farmer was anxious to show his gratitude, and he felt convinced that he had wronged him by his former suspicion. By his recommendation to the superintendent of the cinnamon-groves, our wandering Ceylonese obtained

employment; and in a short time felt himself so happy, that he had reason to reflect with satisfaction on his honesty and generosity.

As soon as he was able to save a little money, he purchased some few articles which he thought might be acceptable to the friendly Bedah; and by setting out in the night, he arrived early in the morning at the forest, and deposited his offering on the very spot where, for so many successive days, the food had been placed which saved his life. In vain he delayed there in hopes of seeing the Bedah, till he was obliged to return to his work; but as he heard the well-known growl at no great distance, he knew that he was observed, and that his present would be found. Colonel Travers says, that the dogs of the Bedahs are remarkable for their sagacity in tracing game, and in distinguishing the scent of different animals. On the approach of a stranger, or of any dangerous beast, they first put their master on his guard, and then help to defend him; and so invaluable are they to this tribe, that when their daughters marry, these dogs form their portion.

Our industrious Ceylonese had built a hut during his residence at the cinnamon-plantation. It was formed from a single cocoa-nut tree; the stem furnished posts, the branches supplied rafters, and the leaves formed a covering sufficient to repel both sun and rain. The Ceylonese huts are fastened entirely by withes of rattan, or by *coya* rope, which is made of the fibrous threads of the husk of the cocoa-nut. They are sometimes strengthened with slender pieces

of wood or bamboo, and daubed over with clay; and round the walls are benches to sit or sleep on.

Being no longer afraid of the pearl-gatherers, he returned to Condatchy, and as it is a usual practice to search for pearls which may by chance have dropped from the oysters while they lie in the pits, he also went to see how far his present good fortune would continue to befriend him. Those pits are dug about two feet deep in the ground, and lined with mats; and the oysters are left there to putrefy, as they are then easily opened without injuring the pearls. His search was successful beyond his hopes; he found a pearl of uncommon size, and joyfully carried it to the collector, who rewarded him with a large sum of money.

It is easy dear mamma, to guess the rest of the story. He bought cloth, axes, knives, and various useful things, and, making his way once more to the banyan-tree, he laid these offerings of gratitude in the spot so well-known to him and the good Bedah; and again he heard the faithful dog growl his knowledge of his being there. He then visited the farmer, and found him in the greatest distress; for his cattle, having again trespassed on the cinnamon-grounds, had all been seized. The kind-hearted Ceylonese bestowed on him a sum more than sufficient to replace his cows; and it was difficult to say which felt the most happy—the farmer suddenly relieved, or the generous creature who relieved him.

HURRICANE AND EARTHQUAKE AT ST LUCIA.

The following vivid yet painful picture of St Lucia, when visited by hurricane and earthquake, is extracted from Mr Breen's valuable work. This account gives a mournful impression of the great insecurity of life and property in the West Indian Islands from elemental convulsions, and we are induced to prize our more settled though cold and otherwise ungenial clime.

Amongst the disadvantages of the climate and seasons must be classed the frequent occurrence of storms and hurricanes. St Lucia appears to be situated within the range of these dreadful visitations, and it has suffered more severely from them than any other island within the tropics, except perhaps Barbadoes. The hurricane of August 1831, which I had the melancholy gratification of witnessing in St Lucia, confined its ravages chiefly to that island, Barbadoes, and St Vincent. Of the three, Barbadoes suffered most, St Lucia least. Such was the violence of the wind, that in Bridgetown alone one-half of the houses and most of the public buildings were razed to the ground, and 1500 persons lost their lives. In St Lucia, on the day preceding the hurricane, no very extrordinary appearance was noted in the atmosphere. Towards the evening the sky assumed a somewhat heavy and lowering aspect, which at that season of the year did not attract any particular attention. At about four o'clock on the morning of the 11th a strong breeze set in from the north, accompanied by a heavy rain. At five the increasing violence of the wind began to excite strong sensations of alarm. By this time it had completely veered to the west, and exhibited every indication of a most

awful hurricane. At nine it was at its greatest height, and, gradually subsiding, dwindled into a perfect calm before two o'clock, P.M. The hurricane did not last altogether more than eight hours, and even its violence did not continue during the whole of that time, but manifested itself by sudden gusts spreading dismay and devastation on every side.

The number of persons that lost their lives did not exceed ten or twelve, and these chiefly belonged to the shipping; but considerable damage was sustained by the shipping itself, by the different estates, and the houses in the towns of Castries, Soufriere, and Vieux Fort. Nearly every anchored vessel within the harbour, drifted from her moorings; some were driven out to sea; others grounded in different parts of the bay; but these were set afloat again without serious injury. It is horrible to contemplate what might have been the fate of the inhabitants, had the violence of the storm assumed a further degree of intensity. As it was, from the fury and frequency of the gusts of wind and the incessant pouring of the rain, there was no means of escape from the building to which you happened to cling for protection. I cannot conceive any situation that presents such a shocking picture of human misery, as that of a West Indian town during a violent hurricane. The ravages of fire, however frightful and destructive, are generally confined to property: the danger and devastation of an earthquake are all over in a few seconds: but during a hurricane, the melancholy looks, the wailing and wild despair, exhibited in the gradual transitions from anxiety to fear, and from

danger to inevitable destruction, are appalling in the highest degree. Who has not pictured to himself the heart-rending spectacle of a shipwreck—the vessel tossed about by the fury of the winds and waves—its imminent perils—the foaming billows opening up their insatiable bowels to ingulph the devoted victims, and then the disappearance and destruction of the vessel and crew? This is, on a limited scale, what occurs in the case of a hurricane. By the violence of the wind, as it veers from point to point, each house is transformed into a rocking vessel; shingles and tiles are fast swept away; the air is darkened with branches of trees and fragments of houses; the roof once exposed begin to give way; the beams crack; the walls tumble down; crash succeeds crash; and in the space of a few hours not merely a ship's crew, but three, six, and sometimes eight thousand human beings lie buried in mutilated masses amongst the ruins of a whole city.

The island is also subject to frequent earthquakes:—

During the last five years the Antilles have been visited by three terrific and destructive earthquakes. The first took place at six o clock on the morning of the 11th January 1839. It lasted about 40 seconds, and was felt in many of the islands, but its devastating effects were confined to St Lucia and Martinique. Desolating indeed were the loss of life and destruction of property in the latter island. The town of Fort Royal, containing a population of 10,000 souls, was the principal scene of havoc. One half of the houses, including the churches and public buildings, were thrown down, and about two hundred

others seriously damaged and rendered untenantable. Of about five hundred persons that were buried in the ruins, two hundred and sixty-one were dug out lifeless and horribly mutilated; and the remainder sustained severe injuries. Fortunately there were no lives lost in St Lucia; but considerable damage was occasioned to the different estates and to the towns of Castries and Soufriere. Such was the violence of the oscillations in the former town, that the earth was fissured in several places: many of the stone-built houses were partially thrown down or dreadfully shattered, and none escaped uninjured. Amongst the buildings that suffered most were the Catholic church and the government offices; and several private dwellings were so materially damaged that it became necessary to have them partially taken down and repaired.

The second earthquake occurred on the 7th May 1842, at half-past four o'clock P.M., and spread terror and devastation throughout the island of St Domingo. The principal scene of its ravages was the town of Cape Haytien, once the capital of the island, but whose population had been reduced to about 9,000 souls. The shocks were repeated three different times in the space of a few minutes, and during their continuance the fissured earth vomited forth dark clouds of sulphureous steam. By this direful catastrophe the town was reduced to a heap of ruins, and upwards of three thousand human beings lost their lives. Immediately after the first shock the fallen timbers communicated with the fire of the kitchens, and the flames burst out on all sides, destroy-

ing much valuable property that had escaped the ravages of the earthquake.

The third earthquake, one of the most melancholy events in the annals of human misery, took place on the morning of the 8th February 1843. It lasted altogether about three minutes, and was felt more or less sensibly throughout the Carribean Archipelago; but its direst ravages were destined for the devoted town of Point à Pître, in the French island of Guadaloupe. At the period of this dreadful visitation the town contained a population of 18,000 souls, and 2,500 houses, of which no more than 200 were built of wood. Though not the seat of government, it was, in point of fact, the capital of the island; and for the elegance of its buildings, both public and private, and the extent of its mercantile relations, was justly considered one of the most flourishing cities in the West Indies. On the night preceding the earthquake a grand ball had been given, and many were still reposing from the fatigue of the festive scene. The Court of Assize had assembled for the administration of human justice: the principal hotel was thronged with strangers and planters from the interior, discussing matters of business, or seated together at the "table d'hôte;" and on the quays and along the streets trade and traffic were proceeding with their wonted bustle and activity. At the fatal hour of 25 minutes to eleven there was heard a noise —a hollow, rolling, rumbling noise, as of distant unbroken thunder: the sea dashed tumultuously on the beach; the earth heaved convulsively, and opened up in several places, emitting dense columns of water

In an instant all the stone buildings had crumbled to the ground—a wide-spread heap of rubbish and ruins: and in that one instant—a dread, dreary, and destructive instant—five thousand human beings, torn from their families and friends, were ushered into the abyss of eternity.

But the work of desolation did not stop here: scarcely had the earthquake ceased its ravages, when a fire broke out in several places at once; and such were the terror and confusion of the surviving inhabitants, that not a single house was rescued from the flames. In another instant the pile was lit up—the devouring element was sweeping over the immense holocaust; and a loud and lugubrious shriek from the living, and a long and lingering groan from the dying, had told the tale, and sealed the doom of Pointe à Pître, the pride of the West! The scene of horror that followed it would be difficult to describe. Fathers ran about in search of their children—children screamed aloud for their mothers—mothers for their husbands—husbands for their wives; and the wild and wailing multitude that wandered over the ruins, in search of a mother, a father, a husband, a child, a brother, a sister, or a friend, found nothing but headless trunks and severed limbs. Rich and poor, black and white, planter and peasant, master and slave—all lay confounded in one vast sepulchre—all were crushed, calcined, or consumed—all hushed in the shadow of death or the silence of despair.

THE ICE-TRADE OF NORTH AMERICA.

We remember to have announced, some years since, the arrival at Calcutta, of a cargo of ice from America, subsequently of the increasing importance of this strange trade. Ice has since been imported to Liverpool, and we have the following interesting particulars from the *Liverpool Standard*:—"As we are henceforth to have this cooling luxury regularly supplied to us, and its great superiority, both in clearness and thickness, over the home article (owing to the precarious nature of our winters and other causes), is acknowledged by all who have tried it, a short notice of its uses, the manner of keeping it, and of cutting and securing it in America, may prove interesting. Ice has become a great article of export in America. Sixty thousand tons are annually sent from Boston to southern parts, the East and West Indies, &c.; and as saw-dust is solely used in packing, a large trade is also carried on in that article. The ice-houses, near the lakes and ponds, are immense wooden buildings, capable of holding 10,000 to 20,000 tons each; some of them, indeed, cover half an acre of ground. They are built with double walls,—that is, with an inner wall all round, two feet from the outer one; and the space between is filled with saw-dust,—a non-conductor—making a solid wall, impervious to heat and air, and of 10 feet in thickness. The machines employed for cutting the ice are very beautiful, and the work is done by men and horses, in the following manner:—The ice

that is intended to be cut is kept clear of snow, as soon as it is sufficiently thick to bear the weight of the men and horses to be employed, which it will do at six inches; and the snow is kept scraped from it until it is thick enough to cut. A piece of ice is cleared of two acres in extent, which, at a foot thick, will give about 2000 tons. By keeping the snow off it freezes thicker, as the frost is freely allowed to penetrate. When the time of cutting arrives, the men commence upon one of these pieces, by getting a straight line through the centre each way. A small hand-plough is pushed along the line, until the groove is about a quarter of an inch in width, and three inches deep, when they commence with the 'marker' —an implement drawn by two horses,—which makes two new grooves parallel with the first, 21 inches, the guage remaining in the first groove. It is then shifted to the outside groove, and makes two more. The same operation goes on, in parallel rectangular lines, until the ice is all marked out, into squares of 21 inches. In the meanwhile, the plough is following in these grooves, drawn by a single horse, a man leading it; and he cuts up the ice to a depth of six inches. The outer blocks are then sawn out, and iron bars are used in splitting them. These bars are like a spade, of a wedge form. In dropping them into the grooves the ice splits off, and a very slight blow is sufficient to separate them; and they split easy or hard, according to the weather in a very cold day. Ice is very brittle in keen frost; in comparatively softer weather, it is more ductile and resistible. Platforms, or low tables, are placed near the opening

made in the ice, with an iron slide reaching from them into the water; and a man stands on each side with an ice-hook, very much like a boat-hook, but made of steel, with fine sharp points. With these the ice is hooked with a jerk that throws it on the platform on the sides, which are of the same height. On a cold day everything becomes covered with ice, and the blocks are each sent spinning along, although they weigh two cwt., as if they weighed only a pound. The slides are large lattice-work platforms to allow the ice to drain, and three tons can be thus easily run in one of them by one horse. It is then carried to the ice-houses, discharged upon a platform in front of the doors, and hoisted into the building by a horse. Forty men and twelve horses will cut and stow away 400 tons a-day. If the weather be favourable, 100 men are sometimes employed at once; and in three weeks the ice-crop, about 200,000 tons, is secured. Some winters it is very difficult to secure it, as a rain or thaw may come that will destroy the labour of weeks, and render the ice unfit for market; and then it may snow and rain upon that, before those employed have time to clear it off; and if the latter freezes, the result is *snow-ice*, which is of no value, and has to be planed off. The operation of planing proceeds in nearly the same manner as that of cutting. A plane guaged to run in the grooves made by the 'marker,' and which will shave the ice to a depth of three inches at one cut, is drawn by a horse, until the whole piece is regulary planed over. The chips are then scraped off. If the ice is not then clear, the work is continued until the pure ice is reached,

and a few nights of hard frost will make it as thick below—inch for inch—for what has been taken off above. The ice is transported on railways. Each ice-house has a branch railway from the main line; and is conveyed in properly constructed box-waggons to Boston—a distance of (as the locality may be) 10 to 18 miles. The tools, machinery, &c. employed, and the building the houses, and constructing and keeping up the railroads, &c., are very expensive; yet the facilities are such, through good management, that ice can be furnished at a very trifling cost per pound; and a failure of the ice crop in America would be a great calamity."—*Athenæum.*

THE RATTLESNAKE OF FLORIDA.

THE rattlesnake is a wonderful creature, when we consider his form, nature, and disposition. It is certain that he is capable, by a puncture or scratch of one of his fangs, not only to kill the largest animal in America, and that in a few minutes' time, but to turn the whole body into corruption; but such is the nature of this dreadful reptile that he cannot run or creep faster than a man or a child can walk, and he is never known to strike until he is first assaulted or fears himself in danger, and even then always gives the earliest warning by the rattles at the extremity of the tail. I have, in the course of my travels in the southern states (where they are the largest, most numerous, and supposed to be the most

venomous and vindictive) stepped unknowingly so close as almost to touch one of them with my feet; and when I perceived him he was already drawn up in circular coils ready for a blow. But, however incredible it may appear, the generous, I may say magnanimous, creature lay as still and motionless as if inanimate; his head crouched in, his eyes almost shut. I precipitately withdrew, unless when I have been so shocked with surprise and horror as to be in a manner riveted to the spot, for a short time not having strength to go away; when he often slowly extends himself, and quietly moves off in a direct line, unless pursued, when he erects his tail as far as the rattles extend, and gives the warning alarm by intervals. But if you pursue and overtake him with a show of enmity, he instantly throws himself into the spiral coil; his tail, by the rapidity of its motion, appears like a vapour, making a quick tremulous sound; his whole body swells through rage, continually rising and falling as a bellows; his beautiful parti-coloured skin becomes speckled and rough by dilatation; his head and neck are flattened, his cheeks swollen and his lips constricted, discovering his mortal fangs; his eyes red as burning coals, and his brandishing forked tongue, of the colour of the hottest flame, continually menaces death and destruction, yet never strikes unless sure of his mark.

The rattlesnake is the largest serpent yet known to exist in North America. I have heard of their having been formerly, at the first settling of Georgia, seven, eight, and even ten feet in length, and six or eight inches diameter; but there are none of that

size now to be seen. I have seen them above six feet in length, and above six inches in thickness, or as large as a man's leg; but their general size is four, five, and six feet in length. They are supposed to have the power of fascination in an eminent degree, so as to enthral their prey. It is generally believed that they charm birds, rabbits, squirrels, and other animals, and by steadfastly looking at them possess them with infatuation; be the cause what it may, the miserable creatures undoubtedly strive by every means to escape; but alas! their endeavours are in vain, they at last lose the power of resistance, flutter or move slowly, but reluctantly, towards the yawning jaws of their devourers, and creep into their mouths, or lie down and suffer themselves to be taken and swallowed.

When in my youth, attending my father on a journey to the Catskill mountains, in the government of New York; having nearly ascended the peak of Gilead,—being youthful and vigorous,—in the pursuit of botanical and novel objects, I had gained the summit of a steep rocky precipice, a-head of our guide; when just entering a shady vale, I saw at the root of a small shrub, a singular and beautiful appearance, which I remember to have instantly apprehended to be a large kind of fungus, which we call Jew's ears, and was just drawing back my foot to kick it over; when, at the instant, my father being near, cried out, A Rattlesnake, my son! and jerked me back, which probably saved my life. I had never before seen one. This was of the kind which our guide called a yellow one; it was very

beautiful, speckled and clouded. My father pleaded for his life, but our guide was inexorable, saying he never spared the life of a rattlesnake, and killed him; my father took his skin and fangs.

Some years after this, when again in company with my father on a journey into East Forida, on the banks of St Juan, at Fort Picolata, attending the congress at a treaty between that government and the Creek nation, for obtaining a territory from that people to annex to the new government; after the Indians and a detachment from the garrison of St Augustine had arrived and encamped separately, near the fort, some days elapsed before the business of the treaty came on, waiting the arrival of a vessel from St Augustine, on board of which were the presents for the Indians. My father employed this time of leisure in little excursions round about the fort; and one morning, being the day the treaty commenced, I attended him on a botanical excursion. Some time after we had been rambling in a swamp about a quarter of a mile from the camp, I being a-head a few paces, my father bid me observe the rattlesnake before and just at my feet. I stopped, and saw the monster formed in a high spiral coil, not half his length from my feet; another step forward would have put my life in his power, as I must have touched, if not stumbled over him. The fright and perturbation of my spirits at once excited resentment; at that time I was entirely insensible to gratitude or mercy. I instantly cut off a little sapling and soon despatched him; this serpent was about six feet in length, and as thick as an ordinary

man's leg. The rencontre deterred us from proceeding on our researches for that day. So I cut off a long tough withe or vine, which fastening round the neck of the slain serpent, I dragged him after me, his scaly body sounding over the ground; and entering the camp with him in triumph, was soon surrounded by the amazed multitude, both Indians and my countrymen. The adventure soon reached the ears of the commander, who sent an officer to request that, if the snake had not bit himself, he might have him served up for his dinner. I readily delivered up the body of the snake to the cooks, and being that day invited to dine at the governor's table, saw the snake served up in several dishes; Governor Grant being fond of the flesh of the rattlesnake. I tasted of it, but could not swallow it. I, however, was sorry after killing the serpent, when coolly recollecting every circumstance. He certainly had it in his power to kill me almost instantly, and I make no doubt but that he was conscious of it. I promised myself that I would never again be accessary to the death of a rattlesnake, which promise I have invariably kept to. This dreaded animal is easily killed; a stick no thicker than a man's thumb is sufficient to kill the largest at one stroke, if well directed, either on the head or across the back; nor can they make their escape by running off, nor indeed do they attempt it when attacked.

EXTRAORDINARY LAND-SLIP.

A most extraordinary land-slip happened on the 15th of November near Lebanon, New Hampshire, U. S. About three miles to the eastward of the village is a high conical hill, rising perpendicularly on its southern side, but on the north sloping gradually from the summit to the table-land below. The following is the relation of a person on the spot at the time.

With Robert Gourlay, I had occasion to transact business on Thursday last, and having called on him at his farm-house, about two o'clock, I was detained till late in the evening. About half-past ten, as we were in the act of reading over some papers, we were startled by a sudden explosion. Our first impression was, that a piece of artillery had been discharged in the rear of the farm-buildings, but after reflecting on the improbability of such an event, we referred the detonation to an earthquake, or some subterranean convulsion. For the next few minutes we sat in a state of considerable alarm, which was augmented on hearing unusual sounds from the stables, as if the cattle were struggling to get loose. Just as we started from our seat by a sort of instinctive resolve to ascertain the cause of this singular occurrence, we suddenly felt the house in motion. At first there was a violent jerk, then a movement onward, not unlike the first starting of a railway train. Gradually the motion increased, until we found ourselves moving along at a rapidly accelerating rate. It was a clear starry night, and I could see the boughs of trees in the distance passing the windows, just as we perceive the transit of similar objects from the window of a travel-

ling vehicle. This continued for two or three minutes, and then there was a sudden stop, producing another violent jerk, which threw my friend and me to the opposite side of the room. We ran immediately to the door, and our astonishment may be more easily conceived than described on discovering ourselves in an entirely new locality. I saw at once that a land-slip had taken place. We found ourselves at least a quarter of a mile from the original spot. The farm-house and outbuildings were all entire. A range of poplars, which grew near the barn, still occupied the same relative position to that building. The only change observable was that a stream which flowed a little below the farm-houses had disappeared. The most singular result of this movement is that the farm-offices of my friend are no longer upon his own farm. They have been projected upon the lands of a different proprietor, and it is supposed that unless he manage to rent, in addition to his old farm, the portion of land on which his steading is now located, a good deal of nice litigation will be the consequence of this sudden and unexpected freak of nature.—*Boston (U. S.) Chronicle.*

ADVENTURES IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

THE following lively sketches are extracted from Miss Pardoe's entertaining work, entitled "The City of the Sultan."

A BATH SCENE.

HAVING passed through a small entrance-court, we entered an extensive hall, paved with white marble, and surrounded by a double tier of projecting galleries, supported by pillars; the lower range being raised about three feet from the floor. These galleries were covered with rich carpets, or mattresses, overlaid with chintz or crimson shag, and crowded with cushions; the spaces between the pillars were slightly partitioned off to the height of a few inches; and, when we entered, the whole of the boxes, if I may so call them, were occupied, save the one which had been reserved for us.

In the centre of the hall, a large and handsome fountain of white marble, pouring its waters into four ample scallop shells, whence they fell again into a large basin with the prettiest and most soothing sound imaginable, was surrounded by four sofas of the same material, on one of which a young and lovely woman lay pillowed on several costly shawls nursing her infant.

When I had established myself comfortably among my cushions, I found plenty of amusement for the first half hour in looking about me; and a more singular scene I never beheld. On the left hand of the door of entrance, sat the proprietress of the baths, a beautiful woman of about forty, in a dark turban, and

a straight dress of flowered cotton, girt round the waist with a cachemire shawl; her chemisette of silk gauze was richly trimmed—her gold snuff-box lay on the sofa beside her—her amber-headed pipe rested against a cushion—and she was amusing herself by winding silk from a small ebony distaff, and taking a prominent part in the conversation; while immediately behind her squatted a negro slave-girl of twelve or thirteen years of age, grinning from ear to ear, and rolling the whites of her large eyes in ecstasy at all that was going forward.

The boxes presented the oddest appearance in the world—some of the ladies had returned from the bathing-hall, and were reclining luxuriously upon their sofas, rolled from head to foot in fine white linen, in many instances embroidered and fringed with gold, with their fine hair falling about their shoulders, which their slaves, not quite so closely covered as their mistresses, were drying, combing, perfuming, and plaiting, with the greatest care. Others were preparing for the bath, and laying aside their dresses, or rather suffering them to be laid aside, for few of them extended a hand to assist themselves—whilst the latest comers were removing their *yashmacs* and cloaks, and exchanging greetings with their acquaintance.

As I had previously resolved to visit every part of the establishment, I followed the example of my companion, who had already undergone the fatigue of an Oriental bath, and exchanged my morning dress for a linen wrapper, and loosened my hair: and then, conducted by the Greek waiting-maid who had ac-

companied me, I walked bare-footed across the cold marble floor to a door at the opposite extremity of the hall, and, on crossing the threshold, found myself in the cooling-room, where groups of ladies were sitting, or lying listlessly on their sofas, enveloped in their white linen wrappers, or preparing for their return to the colder region whence I had just made my escape.

This second room was filled with hot air, to me, indeed, most oppressively so; but I soon discovered that it was, nevertheless, a *cooling-room*: when, after having traversed it, and dipped my feet some half dozen times in the little channels of warm water that intersected the floor, I entered the great bathing-place of the establishment—the extensive octagon hall in which all those who do not choose, or who cannot afford to pay for a separate apartment, avail themselves, as they find opportunities, of the eight fountains which it contains.

For the first few moments I was bewildered; the heavy, dense, sulphureous vapour that filled the place, and almost suffocated me—the wild, shrill cries of the slaves pealing through the reverberating domes of the bathing-halls, enough to awaken the very marble with which they were lined—the subdued laughter, and whispered conversation of their mistresses murmuring along in an under-current of sound—the sight of nearly three hundred women only partially dressed, and that in fine linen so perfectly saturated with vapour, that it revealed the whole outline of the figure—the busy slaves, passing and repassing, naked from the waist upwards, and with

their arms folded upon their bosoms, balancing on their heads piles of fringed or embroidered napkins —groups of lovely girls, laughing, chatting, and refreshing themselves with sweetmeats, sherbet, and lemonade—parties of playful children, apparently quite indifferent to the dense atmosphere which made me struggle for breath—and, to crown all, the sudden bursting forth of a chorus of voices into one of the wildest and shrillest of Turkish melodies, that was caught up and flung back by the echoes of the vast hall, making a din worthy of a saturnalia of demons—all combined to form a picture, like the illusory semblance of a phantasmagoria, almost leaving me in doubt whether that on which I looked were indeed reality, or the mere creation of a distempered brain.

THE FESTIVAL OF KOURBAN BAIRAM.

THE troops presented a better appearance in line than I had expected, but Sultan Mahmoud has yet much to do if he ever intends to make them look like *soldiers*. They are dirty, slouching, and awkward; tread inwards from their habits of sitting upon their feet, and march as though they were dragging their slippers after them. The frightful *fèz* is pulled down to their very eyebrows, and the ill-cut clothing is composed of the coarsest and dingiest materials.

I was still gazing upon this scene, when a party of about thirty field-officers passed the carriage, on their way to their places near the door of the Mosque, at which the Sultan was to enter. They were all similarly attired in surtout coats of Spanish

brown, gathered in large folds at the back of the waist and buttoned beneath a cloth strap, a very common and ugly fashion among the Turks, and wore sword-belts richly embroidered with gold. Many among them were some of the stoutest men I ever saw.

In about five minutes after them arrived the led horses of the Sultan; and these formed by far the most splendid feature of the procession; they were ten in number, and wore on their heads a *panache* of white and pink ostrich feathers mixed with roses, and fastened down upon the forelock with a clasp of precious stones. Each was attended by a groom, controlling, with some trouble, the curvettings and capers of the pampered animals, who were caparisoned in a style of splendour which, if it have ever been equalled, can certainly never have been surpassed. Their housings, which were either of silk or velvet, all differing the one from the other, were embroidered with gold and silver, large pearls, and jewels. One of them bore, on a ground of myrtle-coloured velvet, the cypher of the Sultan wrought in brilliants, and surrounded by a garland of flowers formed of rubies, emeralds, and topaz. Another housing, of rich lilac silk, was worked at the corners with a cluster of musical instruments in diamonds and large pearls, and, as the sunshine flashed upon it, it was like a blaze of light. The remainder were equally magnificent; and the well-padded saddles of crimson or green velvet were decorated with stirrups of chased gold, while the bridles, whose embroidered reins hung low upon the necks of the animals, were one mass of gold and jewels.

The Sultan's stud was succeeded by the Seraskier Pasha in state, mounted on a tall grey horse (whose elaborate accoutrements were only inferior to those that I have attempted to describe), and surrounded and followed by a dozen attendants on foot: his diamond-hilted sword—the rings upon his hands—the star in front of his *fèz*, and the orders on his breast, were perfectly dazzling.

At intervals of about a minute, all the great officers of state passed in the same order, and according to their respective ranks; and at length we heard the welcome sounds of the imperial band, which struck up the Sultan's Grand March, as Mahmoud the Powerful, the Brother of the Sun and Emperor of the East, passed the gates of the court.

First came twelve running footmen, in richly laced uniforms, and high military caps; and these were succeeded by the twenty body pages, who were splendidly dressed, and wore in their chakos, plumes, or rather *crêtes* of stiff feathers, intermixed with artificial flowers of immense size, and originally invented to conceal the face of the Sultan as he passed along, and thus screen him from the Evil Eye! But his present Sublime Highness is not to be so easily scared into concealment, and the pages who were wont to surround his predecessors merely precede him, while a crowd of military officers supply their place, one walking at each of his stirrups, and the rest a little in the rear.

As this was the first occasion on which I had seen the Sultan, I leant eagerly forward upon my cushions to obtain a good view of him; and I saw before me,

at the distance of fifteen or twenty yards at the utmost, a man of noble physiognomy and graceful bearing, who sat his horse with gentlemanlike ease, and whose countenance was decidedly prepossessing. He wore on his *fèz* an aigrette of diamonds, sustaining a cluster of peacock's feathers; an ample blue cloak was flung across his shoulders, whose collar was one mass of jewels, and on the third finger of his bridle hand glittered the largest brilliant that I ever remember to have seen.

As he moved forward at a foot's pace, loud shouts of "Long live Sultan Mahmoud!" ran along the lines, and were re-echoed by the crowd, but he did not acknowledge the greeting, though his eyes wandered on all sides, until they fell upon our party, when a bright smile lit up his features, and for the first time he turned his head, and looked long and fixedly at us. In the next instant, he bent down, and said something in a subdued voice to the officer who walked at his stirrup, who, with a low obeisance, quitted his side, and hastily made his way through the crowd, until he reached our carriage, to the astonishment and terror of a group of Turkish women who had ensconced themselves almost under it; and, bowing to my father, who still stood bareheaded beside us, he inquired of one of the servants who I was, and what had brought me to Constantinople; the Sultan, meanwhile, looking back continually, and smiling in the same good-humoured and condescending manner.

The reply was simple—I was an Englishwoman, and had accompanied my father to Turkey, for the purpose of seeing the country; and, having received

this answer, the messenger again saluted us, and withdrew.

VISIT TO ST SOPHIA.

We conclude with an account of a stolen visit to the mosques. A firman to view them is a favour granted rarely, and to magnificent personages; Miss Pardoe, however, preferred running the risk of her life to returning home with her curiosity ungratified. A young Bey volunteered to be her conductor.

I at once understood that the attempt must be made in a Turkish dress; but this fact was of trifling importance, as no costume in the world lends itself more readily or more conveniently to the purposes of disguise. After having deliberately weighed the chances for and against detection, I resolved to run the risk; and accordingly I stained my eyebrows with some of the dye common in the harem; concealed my female attire beneath a magnificent pelisse, lined with sables, which fastened from my chin to my feet: pulled a *fèz* low upon my brow; and, preceded by a servant with a lantern, attended by the Bey, and followed by the Kiära and a pipe-bearer, at half-past ten o'clock I sallied forth on my adventurous errand.

"If we escape from St Sophia unsuspected," said my chivalrous friends, "we will then make another bold attempt; we will visit the mosque of Sultan Achmet; and as this is a high festival, if you risk the adventure, you will have done what no infidel has ever yet dared to do; but I forewarn you that, should you be discovered, and fail to make your escape on the instant, you will be torn to pieces."

At length we entered the spacious court of the

mosque, and as the servants stooped to withdraw my shoes, the Bey murmured in my ear: "Be firm, or you are lost!"—and making a strong effort to subdue the feeling of mingled awe and fear, which was rapidly stealing over me, I pulled the *fèz* deeper upon my eye-brows, and obeyed.

On passing the threshold, I found myself in a covered peristyle, whose gigantic columns of granite are partially sunk in the wall of which they form a part; the floor was covered with fine matting, and the coloured lamps, which were suspended in festoons from the lofty ceiling, shed a broad light on all the surrounding objects. In most of the recesses formed by the pillars, beggars were crouched down, holding in front of them their little metal basins, to receive the *paras* of the charitable; while servants lounged to and fro, or squatted in groups upon the matting, awaiting the egress of their employers. As I looked around me, our own attendant moved forward, and raising the curtain which veiled a double door of bronze, situated at mid-length of the peristyle, I involuntarily shrank back before the blaze of light that burst upon me.

Far as the eye could reach upwards, circles of coloured fire, appearing as if suspended in mid-air, defined the form of the stupendous dome; while beneath, devices of every shape and colour were formed by myriads of lamps of various hues: the Imperial closet, situated opposite to the pulpit, was one blaze of refulgence, and its gilded lattices flashed back the brilliancy, till it looked like a gigantic meteor!

As I stood a few paces within the doorway, I could

not distinguish the limits of the edifice—I looked forward, upward—to the right hand, and to the left—but I could only take in a given space, covered with human beings, kneeling in regular lines, and at a certain signal bowing their turbaned heads to the earth, as if one soul and one impulse animated the whole congregation; while the shrill chanting of the choir pealed through the vast pile, and died away in lengthened cadences among the tall dark pillars which support it.

And this was St Sophia! To me it seemed like a creation of enchantment—the light—the ringing voices—the mysterious extent, which baffled the earnestness of my gaze—the ten thousand turbaned Moslems, all kneeling with their faces turned towards Mecca, and at intervals laying their foreheads to the earth—the bright and various colours of the dresses—and the rich and glowing tints of the carpets that veiled the marble floor—all conspired to form a scene of such unearthly magnificence, that I felt as though there could be no reality in what I looked on, but that, at some sudden signal, the towering columns would fail to support the vault of light above them, and all would become void.

I had forgotten every thing in the mere exercise of vision; the danger of detection—the flight of time—almost my own identity—when my companion uttered the single word "*Gel*—Come"—and, passing forward to another door on the opposite side of the building, I instinctively followed him, and once more found myself in the court. * *

In ten minutes more we stood before the mosque of Sultan Achmet, and, ascending the noble flight of

steps which lead to the principal entrance, we again cast off our shoes, and entered the temple.

Infinitely less vast than St Sophia, this mosque impressed me with a feeling of awe, much greater than that which I had experienced in visiting its more stately neighbour—four colossal pillars of marble, five or six feet in circumference, support the dome, and these were wreathed with lamps, even to the summit; while the number of lights suspended from the ceiling gave the whole edifice the appearance of a place overhung with stars. We entered at a propitious moment, for the faithful were performing their prostrations, and had consequently no time to speculate on our appearance; the chanting was wilder and shriller than that which I had just heard at St Sophia; it sounded to me, in fact, more like the delirious outcry which we may suppose to have been uttered by a band of Delphic Priestesses, than the voices of a choir of uninspired human beings.

We passed onward over the yielding carpets, which returned no sound beneath our footsteps: and there was something strangely supernatural in the spectacle of several human beings moving along without creating a single echo in the vast space they traversed. We paused an instant beside the marble-arched platform, on which the muezzin was performing his prostrations to the shrill cry of the choir;—we lingered another, to take a last look at the kneeling thousands who were absorbed in their devotions; and then, rapidly descending into the court, my companion uttered a hasty congratulation on the successful issue of our bold adventure, to which I responded a most heart-

felt "Amen"—and in less than an hour, I cast off my *fèz* and my pelisse in the harem of —— Effendi, and exclaimed to its astonished inmates:—"I have seen the mosques!"

DISASTROUS INUNDATIONS AT ST PETERSBURGH.

The autumnal equinoctial gales most generally prevail at St Petersburgh from the south-west by which the waters of the Gulf of Finland and Neva are much increased. So it was in 1824, and for some weeks the wind continued from nearly the same quarter. The night of the 18th of November was very stormy, and at daylight of the 19th it blew a hurricane from W.S.W., by which the stream of the river, the upper part at least, was reversed, and the waters, running higher than ever remembered, soon caused the lower parts of the city and neighbourhood of the embouchure to be inundated. At nine o'clock in the morning I attempted to cross the Voskresenskoy Bridge of boats on my way to the General Naval Hospital, on the Wyborside, but was unable, owing to the great elevation. I then paid some professional visits, and at eleven called on Prince Narishkin, who had already given orders to remove the furniture from his lower apartments, the water then being above the level of the Fontanka canal opposite to his residence. From this time the rise was rapid, and at half-past eleven, when I returned to my house, in the great Millione, the water was gushing upwards through the gratings of the sewers, filling the streets

and court-yards with which every house is provided. A servant took me on his back from the droshky, my horses at that time being above their knees, and conveyed me to the landing of the staircase. The wind now blew in awful gusts, and the noise of the tempest with the cries of the people in the streets was terrific. It was not long ere boats were seen in the streets with vast quantities of fire-wood and other articles floating about. As there was an ascent to my coach-house and stables, the water there attained but to four feet in depth; in most, however, it was necessary to get both horses and cows up to the landing places of the stairs in order to save them, though the loss of animals was great. Now and then a horse was seen swimming across from one pavement to another, the deepest parts of the streets of St Petersburgh being in the centre. The number of rats drowned on this occasion was inconceivable, and of dogs and cats not a few. The crisis seemed to be from one to three in the afternoon, at which hour the wind having veered round a couple of points to the northward, the waters began to abate, and by four o'clock the tops of the iron posts, three feet in height, by the sides of the pavement made their appearance. The reflux of the water was tremendous, causing much damage, and carrying off fire-wood, boards, lumber, and all sorts of rubbish, with various articles of furniture.

From the commencement of the inundation the report of the signal cannon, fired first at the Galley-haven, at the entrance of the river, then at the Admiralty dockyard, and lastly at the fortress, was continued at intervals as a warning to the inhabitants,

and added not a little to the horror of the scene. At five o'clock, persons were seen on the pavements carrying lanterns, and the rattling of equipages was heard an hour afterwards. The depth of water in the different parts of the city varied from four to nine and ten feet; but along the border of the Gulf of Finland, and especially in the low suburb of the Galleyhaven before alluded to, the depth was from fourteen to eighteen feet, and many of the small wooden houses built on piles were carried away, inmates and all. A few were floated up the Neva, rocking about with poor creatures clinging on the roof. Some of these perished; others were taken off, at a great risk, by boats from the Admiralty yard, which had been ordered out by the express command of his Imperial Majesty, who stood during the greatest part of the day on the balcony of the Winter Palace, giving the necessary orders. The government ironworks, near the shore of the Gulf, and two miles distant, were almost annihilated, and the loss of life was great. This establishment was afterwards removed to the left and elevated bank of the Neva, five versts above the city. Vessels of various kinds, boats, timber, &c. floated over the parapets of the quays on the banks of the Neva and canals, into the streets and squares, and were for the most part afterwards broken up for fuel. As the lower part of most houses in St Petersburgh is occupied by shopkeepers and artizans of various descriptions, so these unfortunate people sustained much loss, and until their dwellings were considered to be sufficiently dried by means of stoves, found refuge and maintenance with their neighbours

in the upper apartments. A German shoemaker, with his family, lived below me, and in this way became my guests for the space of eight days.

The wind continued providentially to get round to the north during the night of the 19th, and a smart frost taking place on the following morning, rendered the roads and streets extremely slippery, but doing much good by the dryness it produced. On the 20th the Emperor Alexander, ever benevolent and humane, visited those parts of the city and suburbs most afflicted by this catastrophe, and in person bestowed alms and consolation to the sufferers, for the most part of the lower classes, and in every way afforded such relief, both then and afterwards, as won for him the still greater love and admiration of his people and of the foreign residents in St Petersburgh. To assist the Emperor's benevolent views, a subscription was entered into, and the British residents came forward, as usual, with their wonted liberality. As nothing official was published as to the actual loss of lives on this melancholy occasion, it is impossible to state otherwise than by report. The authorities were shy on this subject; but from what information I could obtain, twelve or fifteen hundred persons must have perished. Owing to the damp and unwholesome state of the lower parts of the houses and cellars, the mortality during the subsequent winter was nearly doubled, from typhus chiefly, as also from affection of the lungs; and many dated their rheumatic pains and various other maladies to the sufferings they then underwent.—*Athenæum.*

THE DOG OF SIBERIA.

FROM Wrangell's "Expedition to the Polar Sea."

OF all the animals that live in the high north latitudes none are so deserving of being noticed as the dog. The companion of man in all climates from the islands of the South Sea, where he feeds on bananas, to the Polar Sea, where his food is fish, he here plays a part to which he is unaccustomed in more favourite regions. Necessity has taught the inhabitants of the more northern countries to employ these comparatively weak animals in draught. On all the coasts of the Polar Sea, from the Obi to Behring's Straits, in Greenland, Kamtschatka, and the Kurile Islands, the dogs are made to draw sledges loaded with persons and with goods, and for considerable journeys. These dogs have much resemblance to the wolf. They have long, pointed, projecting noses, sharp and upright ears, and a long bushy tail; some have smooth, some have curly hair (such as the smooth-haired dogs of Newfoundland). Their colour is various; black, brown, reddish brown, white, and spotted. They vary also in size, but it is considered that a good sledge-dog should not be less than two feet seven and a half inches in height (at the head?), and three feet three-quarters of an inch in length (English measure). Their barking is like the howling of a wolf. They pass their whole life in the open air: in summer they dig holes in the ground for coolness, or lie in the water to avoid the musquitoes; in winter they protect themselves by burrowing in the snow, and lie curled up, with their noses

covered by their bushy tails. The female puppies are drowned, except enough to preserve the breed, the males alone being used in draught. Those born in winter enter on their training the following autumn, but are not used in long journeys until the third year.

The feeding and training is a particular art, and much skill is required in driving and guiding them. The best-trained dogs are used as leaders, and as the quick and steady going of the team, usually of twelve dogs, and the safety of the traveller, depend on the sagacity and docility of the leader, no pains are spared in their education, so that they may always obey their master's voice, and not be tempted from their course when they come on the scent of game. This last is a point of great difficulty; sometimes the whole team, in such cases will start off, and no endeavours on the part of the driver can stop them. On such occasions we have sometimes had to admire the cleverness with which the well-trained leader endeavours to turn the other dogs from their pursuit; if other devices fail, he will suddenly wheel round, and by barking, as if he had come on a new scent, try to induce the other dogs to follow him. In travelling across the wide tundra, in dark nights, or when the vast plain is veiled in impenetrable mist, or in storms or snow-tempests, when the traveller is in danger of missing the sheltering powarna, and of perishing in the snow, he will frequently owe his safety to a good leader. If the animal has ever been in this plain, and has stopped with his master at the powarna, he will be sure to bring the sledge to the

place where the hut lies deeply buried in the snow; when arrived at it he will suddenly stop, and indicate significantly the spot where his master must dig.

Nor are the dogs without their use in summer: they tow the boats up the rivers; and it is curious to observe how instantly they obey their master's voice, either in halting or in changing the bank of the river. On hearing his call they plunge into the water, draw the towing-line after them, and swim after the boat to the opposite shore; and, on reaching it, replace themselves in order, and wait the command to go on. Sometimes even those who have no horses will use the dogs in fowling excursions, to draw their light boats from one lake or river to another. In short, the dog is fully as useful and indispensable a domestic animal to the settled inhabitant of this country, as the tame reindeer is to the nomade tribes. They regard it as such. We saw a remarkable instance of this during the terrible sickness which, in the year 1821, carried off the greater part of these useful animals. An unfortunate Juhakir family had only two dogs left out of twenty, and these were just born and indeed still blind. The mother being dead, the wife of the Juhakir determined on nursing the two puppies with her own child, rather than lose the last remains of their former wealth. She did so, and was rewarded for it, for her two nurslings lived, and became the parents of a new and vigorous race of dogs.

In the year 1822, when most of the inhabitants had lost their dogs by the sickness, they were in a most melancholy condition; they had to draw home

their own fuel; and both time and strength failed them in bringing home the fish which had been caught in distant places; moreover, whilst thus occupied, the season passed for fowling and fur-hunting; and a general and severe famine, in which numbers perished, was the consequence. Horses cannot be made a substitute; the severity of the climate and the shortness of the summer make it impossible to provide sufficient fodder; the light dog can also move quickly over the deep snow, in which the heavy horse would sink. Having thus described the out-of-door life and employments of the people of this district, let us accompany an individual into his habitation, at the close of summer, when he and his family rest from all these laborious efforts, and enjoy life after their manner. The walls are caulked afresh with moss and new plastered with clay, and a solid mound of earth is heaped up on the outside as high as the windows. This is accomplished before December, when the long winter nights assemble the members of the family around the hearth. The light of the fire, and that of one or more train-oil lamps, are seen through the ice windows; and from the low chimneys rise high columns of red smoke, with magnificent jets of sparks, occasioned by the resinous nature of the wood. The dogs are outside, either on or burrowed in the snow. From time to time their howling interrupts the general silence; it is so loud as to be heard at great distances, and is repeated at intervals usually of six or eight hours, except when the moon shines, when it is much more frequent.

REMARKABLE NATURAL PHENOMENON.

In the Mining Journal of August 2, we find the following details of a most singular but instructive phenomenon :—

The river Wear, immediately above and below Framwell-gate Bridge, Durham, now presents a singular appearance, as when unruffled by the wind, it appears to be in a state of ebullition, occasioned by numerous streams of air-bubbles issuing from below. The circumstance, however, had not been regarded with much attention, until Mr Wharton of Dryburn, having accidentally observed an unusual agitation of the water, was induced to take particular notice of one of the principal jets of air, and finding its position the same on three successive days, was led to the conclusion, that it must flow from some fissure under the bed of the river, and would prove to be an escape of the light carburetted hydrogen gas generated in such fearful abundance in the coal and other strata of the district. A boat having been moored alongside the jet of air, and its inflammable nature fully ascertained by the application of a lighted taper, a large inverted funnel, furnished with a pipe of the requisite length, was fixed over the supposed fissure, and all the gas issuing from it thus collected and conveyed into a small open-bottomed tin reservoir, or gasometer, floating on the surface, and provided with a burner, and glass chimney. The gas could now be ignited at pleasure, and the supply was found to be sufficiently abundant to produce a large and brilliant jet of flame, arising, as it were, from the bosom of

the old "river of Wear"—a strange and extraordinary spectacle, which has already collected many hundreds of spectators curious to see the river on fire. The stream of gas appropriated to the above experiment is one only of a great many others which occupy an area of from fifty to a hundred square yards of water, and which must together discharge very many gallons of gas per minute. When the air is perfectly calm, large bubbles, formed by the ascent of the gas to the surface, and readily taking fire on contact with a lighted candle, mark the limits of the principal cluster of gas jets above the bridge; two others of smaller dimensions are observable below, and a still smaller one at some distance above the bridge, each of them being marked by the presence of numerous air-bubbles whenever the surface of the water is smooth. They are all situated nearly in a straight line, crossing the river diagonally under the bridge in a north-north-east and south-south-west direction.

The distance of the extreme clusters being upwards of a hundred yards, furnishes a strong presumption that the source of this extraordinary discharge of gas is situated at a great depth below the bed of the river, and that it finds its way up the fissures of some "trouble," fault, or dislocation of the strata from some of the lowest beds of coal or shale reposing below. No coal workings are known to exist within several hundred yards of the bridge, nor are there any within the distance of two miles which are sufficiently deep to have become instrumental to the appearance of this curious phenomenon. It must therefore in all probability be traced to one of those ex-

tensive natural accumulations of gas lurking in the fissures and pores of the strata far below the surface of the ground, which, when tapped by the operations and fired by the candles of the miner, have been the frequent causes of those dreadful explosions, of one of which the workings of Haswell colliery bore such awful testimony last year. It has been proposed to light the bridge from this source, and other parts of the town, if there appear a probability of its continuance. Many persons assert that they have noticed bubbles rising from the water for eighteen months or two years past, and as the remarkable emission of hydrogen from one of the old shafts of Wall's End colliery has been burning for many years, and giving a clear light, which is visible at night for miles, it is probable this natural supply on the Wear may last for years.

THE END.

EDINBURGH:
MACPHERSON & SYME, PRINTERS,
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